LIFESTYLE / C1

Fil Delacruz's 'kenotic, kinetic art'

- **INFOTECH / B6**

Obscene Kama Sutra worm targets vulnerable PCs

- **SPORTS / A26**

RP's Jimrex Jaca also scores KO victory in Las Vegas undercard

- **BUSINESS / B1**

30% of VAT proceeds to go to government infrastructure projects

Pacquiao's trunks worth an estimated P5 million

By Nini Valera

MANNY PACQUIAO WORE TRUNKS WORTH AT least P5 million for his nontitle bout with Mexican Erik Morales yesterday.

Pacquiao, who endorses products ranging from socks and laundry detergent to pharmaceuticals, was peddling advertising space on his shorts for as much as P1.5 million a patch

PACQUIAO'S/ A21

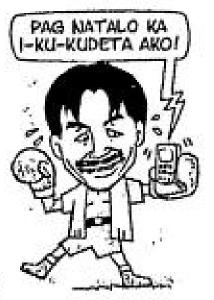
email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, January 23, 2006 ★★ 7 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 46 P18 website: www.inq7.net

'Hello Manny' text message circulates

By Michael Lim Ubac and Luige A. del Puerto

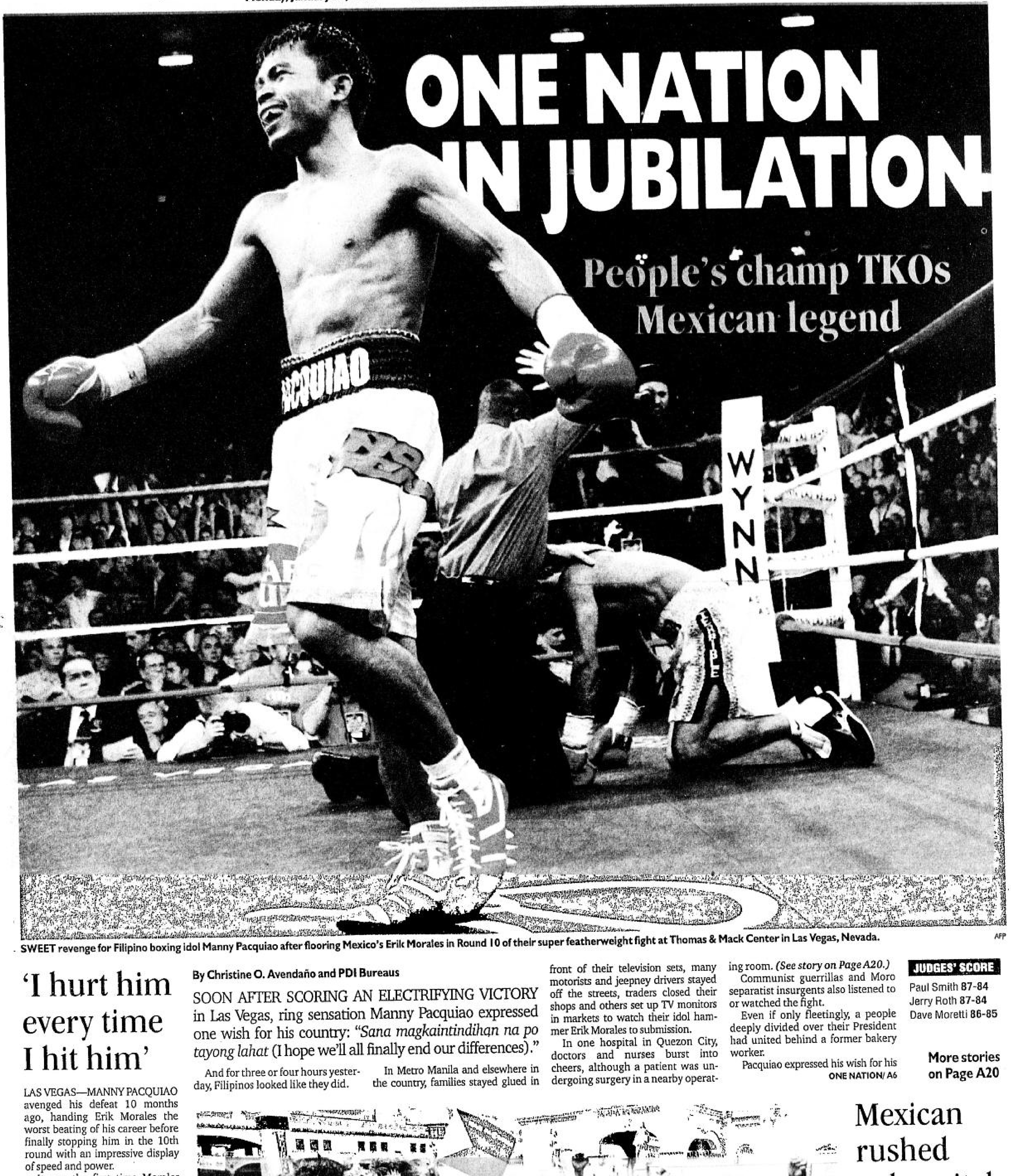

PAG NATALO KA I-KU-KUDETA AKO!

BEFORE THE FIGHT IN Las Vegas, a text message about a supposed phone conversation between President Macapagal-Arroyo and Manny Pacquiao circulated in Manila.

HELLO/ A20

ONE NATION IN JUBILATION

People's champ TKOs Mexican legend



SWEET revenge for Filipino boxing idol Manny Pacquiao after flooring Mexico's Erik Morales in Round 10 of their super featherweight fight at Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas, Nevada. AFP

By Christine O. Avendaño and PDI Bureaus

SOON AFTER SCORING AN ELECTRIFYING VICTORY in Las Vegas, ring sensation Manny Pacquiao expressed one wish for his country: "*Sana magkaintindihan na po tayong lahat* (I hope we'll all finally end our differences)."

And for three or four hours yesterday, Filipinos looked like they did.

In Metro Manila and elsewhere in the country, families stayed glued in front of their television sets, many motorists and jeepney drivers stayed off the streets, traders closed their shops and others set up TV monitors in markets to watch their idol hammer Erik Morales to submission.

In one hospital in Quezon City, doctors and nurses burst into cheers, although a patient was undergoing surgery in a nearby operating room. *(See story on Page A20.)*

Communist guerrillas and Moro separatist insurgents also listened to or watched the fight.

Even if only fleetingly, a people deeply divided over their President had united behind a former bakery worker.

Pacquiao expressed his wish for his

ONE NATION/ A6

JUDGES' SCORE

Paul Smith **87-84**
Jerry Roth **87-84**
Dave Moretti **86-85**

More stories on Page A20

'I hurt him every time I hit him'

LAS VEGAS—MANNY PACQUIAO avenged his defeat 10 months ago, handing Erik Morales the worst beating of his career before finally stopping him in the 10th round with an impressive display of speed and power.

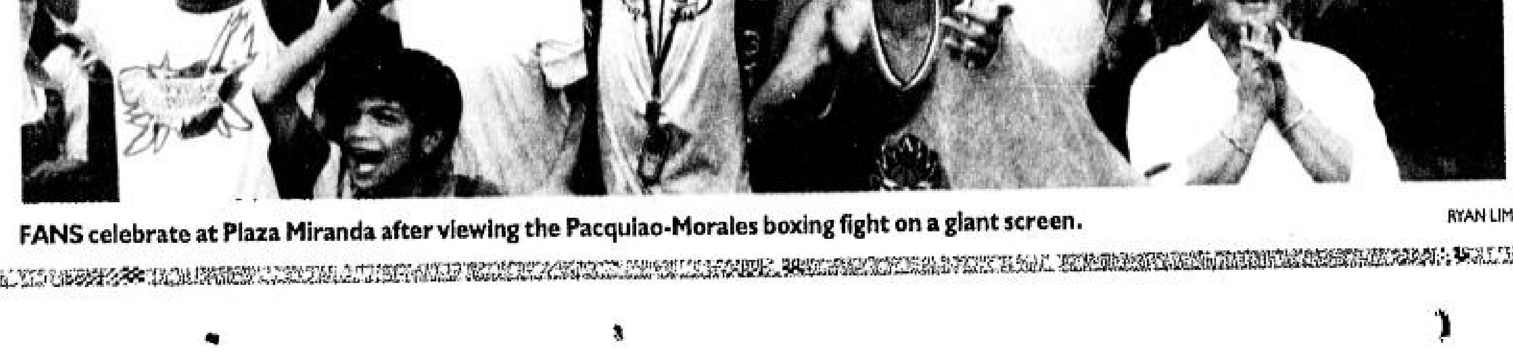
It was the first time Morales had ever been stopped in what had been a spectacular career, and it came with a stellar performance by a fighter who never stopped punching.

The end came at 2:33 of the 10th round when Morales, who had barely gotten up in time from the first knockdown of the fight, was knocked back down with a flurry of punches. Referee Kenny Bayless wasted no time in stopping the fight.

"I saw I hurt him every time I hit him in the body," Pacquiao said after the WBC super featherweight title eliminator.

Morales' face was a mess of welts and he had lumps on his forehead and head after taking

I HURT/ A4



FANS celebrate at Plaza Miranda after viewing the Pacquiao-Morales boxing fight on a giant screen. RYAN LIM

Mexican rushed to hospital

By Recah Trinidad

LAS VEGAS—MANNY PACQUIAO, taunting his handlers for appearing very nervous, took a giant step out of his dressing room at the Thomas & Mack Center here to win his biggest fight and claim instant immortality via a crushing 10th round knockout of Mexican boxing great Erik Morales yesterday.

The conquest of Morales, adored by his own countrymen as a national treasure like Pacquiao, was so total and merciless that promoters were left wondering if

MEXICAN/ A4

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: At 2 p.m. yesterday, tropical depression AGATON was estimated at 360 km east northeast of Surigao City with maximum sustained winds of 45 kph near the center. It was moving west northwest at 7 kph. Diffused tail-end of cold front affected Northeastern Luzon.

COMPILED BY CYRIL L BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/01/23/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Second FRONTPAGE

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'Military headed to crisis with controversial appts'

Analyst says GMA shattered AFP morale

By TJ Burgonio, Luige A. del Puerto and Christine O. Avendaño

A MILITARY ANALYST YESTERDAY WARNED that an increasingly politicized military was "headed to a crisis" following the controversial appointments of the so-called "Hello Garci" generals to key posts.

"It's headed to a crisis. It's going to blow up. The only problem is when," said the analyst, who asked not to be named.

The military, he said, has increasingly lost its insulation from politics as shown by, among other things, the recent appointments by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"If you don't insulate it from politics, the security of the state is weakened, and the professionals tend to rebel against the situation," said the analyst. "You're weakening their will to fight, disaffecting, even encouraging mutiny."

The analyst was referring to the recent appointments of Maj. Gen. Gabriel Habacon and Rear Admiral Tirso Danga as chiefs of the Southern and Western commands, respectively, who both figured in the "Hello Garci" wiretapping scandal.

By appointing the duo to "strategically choice positions" in disregard of the recommendation of the board of generals, the President shattered the morale of the "rest of the AFP leadership," the analyst said.

Habacon was mentioned in the tapes that suggested electoral fraud may have been committed in Mindanao.

Danga headed the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines when President Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano were wiretapped supposedly talking about rigging the 2004 presidential elections.

On Friday, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon admitted the appointments were fanning discontent that could eventually lead to a rerun of the July 2003 Oakwood mutiny.

Favoritism, revolving door

On top of this, perceived favoritism and the revolving door policy or the practice of appointing officers to key posts on a short-term basis, were leading the AFP to that "critical point," the analyst said.

"If you remember, the RAM (Reform the Armed Forces Movement) was formed after the AFP hierarchy threw away the merit system in the promotion of officials," he said, referring to the rightist group that mounted a series of failed coups against the Aquino administration in the late '80s.

The analyst, however, maintained he had not seen any signs that the underground rebel movement was plotting a coup.

But yesterday, the Young Officers Union new generation (YOUng), a shadowy group claiming to be composed of junior military officers, predicted the downfall of the Arroyo administration soon.

Country bleeding

"We cannot postpone this any longer because the country is bleeding profusely as a result of unbridled corruption and insatiable greed for power of Ms Arroyo and her crooked followers," said the YOUng statement signed by a Lt. Col. Arsenio Alcantara.

A ranking military officer yesterday confirmed objections to the appointment of certain officers to key positions which went against established rules.

The officer said the military had violated its own rules and that boded ill for the organization.

"The policy is violated, and this will become a precedent, and it can happen again in the future. *Masisira ang organisasyon* (It will ruin the organization)," he said.

He pointed out that Habacon had less than a year left in the service, and therefore could no longer qualify for promotion under AFP rules, unless appointed as AFP chief of staff.

"A policy is like the law. If you break it, you should be punished," he said.

Junior officers have also expressed disappointment at the level of politicization in the Armed Forces.

A Marine captain said the INQUIRER headline story yesterday saying cracks were showing in the military was "a valid observation."

In its statement, the YOUng warned of bloodshed, saying they were ready to fight "fire with fire."

Defensor threatened

And if fighting erupted, the YOUng said, it would make sure that presidential chief of staff Michael Defensor's blood was the first to be shed.

On Friday, Defensor had warned that Malacañang would fight the rebel troops "fire with fire."

Defensor, however, dismissed the YOUng's threat as "probably part of psywar operations again by certain individuals."

As this developed, Malacañang yesterday denied rumors spread through text messages that AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga had resigned.

"These text messages are the handiwork of the old gang who have kept trying a power grab but have utterly failed at every turn," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in his weekly "View from the Palace" column.

Manila prelate raps rumormongers, Cha-cha backers

By Christian V. Esguerra

MANILA ARCHBISHOP GAUdencio Rosales yesterday criticized those spreading coup rumors and those relentlessly pushing the efforts to amend the Constitution to favor selfish political interests.

Rosales was concerned rumors would scare away foreign investors like the series of armed uprisings during the Aquino administration in the late 1980s.

"It's saddening even if it's just a rumor," Rosales said in Filipino in an interview over the Church-run Radio Veritas. "Yes, we have a problem, but is that [a coup] the solution?"

In the end, a coup, or simply rumors of it, would be costly for Filipinos, he said.

The prelate, who normally avoids commenting on political issues, urged the public to consider how coup rumors would affect the country's image with foreign investors.

"Foreign investors are losing trust in us and won't want to start a business here because of our attitude," he said.

Rumors of an impending military uprising against President Macapagal-Arroyo were resurrected following the escape of four junior military officers known as the Magdalo group of mutineers from Army headquarters at Fort Bonifacio on Jan. 17.

Two weeks before that, Marine Capt. Nicanor Faeldon, one of the Magdalo leaders of the failed July 2003 Oakwood uprising, fled after attending a court hearing in Makati City.

Rosales was also wary of the moves to amend the 1987 Constitution, ostensibly to pave the way for the shift from the presidential to a parliamentary system of government.

"If it would be good for the country, why not?" he said. "But what if it would only cater to the interests of other people? The Constitution won't be good if injected with these interests."

He said he was particularly appalled by "family dynasties" that generally preside over the country's politics.

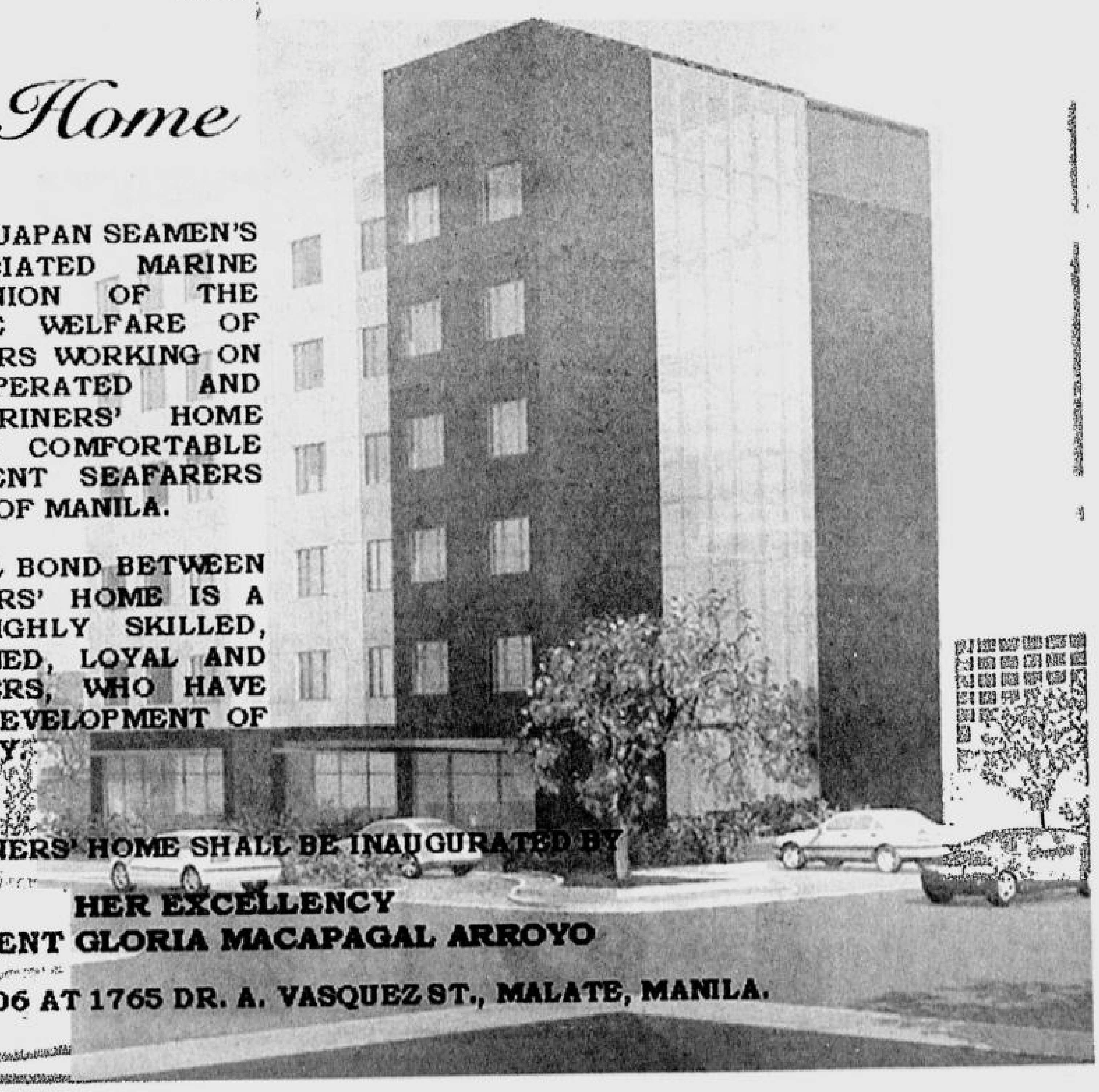
Before making any changes to the Constitution, he said that individuals should first seek "individual conversion" to come up with a better Charter.

Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, gave the same recipe to achieve national transformation.

Amid today's debates in the political arena, Rosales appealed to the nation's leaders and the public to turn their attention to the worsening poverty in the country.

"It's hair-raising," said the prelate, who said he had been visiting the poorest communities in his diocese.

His main weapon against poverty is the "Pondo ng Pinoy," a program encouraging people to set aside at least 25 centavos daily for the poor. Contributions are placed in a general fund for feeding and livelihood projects.



JSU - AMOSUP

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Attend Council meet, pro-GMA solons beg antis

By Michael Lim Ubac and Christine O. Avendaño

THE ADMINISTRATION CAMP yesterday virtually pleaded with the opposition to support the Council of State meeting called for Jan. 24 by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Administration Representatives Rep. Edwin Uy (Lakas, Isabela), chair of the House committee on bases conversion and development, and Eduardo Veloso (NPC, Leyte), a member of the Commission on Appointments, asked Senate President Franklin Drilon and other opposition leaders who had chosen to skip tomorrow's meeting to "reconsider" for the sake of the nation.

"The people will greatly appreciate it to see our leaders unite for our nation's sake. The opposition and even all those not supportive of the government should participate in this process," Uy said.

Besides Drilon, former President Corazon Aquino and the minority leaders of Congress—Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Rep. Francis Escudero—declined the invitation coursed by Malacañang through Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

So far, only former President Fidel Ramos, Speaker Jose de Venecia, Majority Leaders Rep. Prospero Nograles and Sen. Francis Pangilinan, Senate President Pro Tempore Juan Flavier and the presidents of local government executives' associations had confirmed their attendance at the meeting.

Escudero said that if the object of the meeting was solely to inform Ms Arroyo of the issues "affecting national interest, those issues had long been made known to her."

Uy said recent developments like talk of a coup and its effect on the peso and stock market provided compelling reasons for the opposition to join in discussing the nation's fate.

He said the decision of opposition leaders to boycott the meeting was "tantamount to turning their backs on the nation's welfare in favor of their own agenda to seize power."

Veloso, for his part, deplored the opposition leaders' decision to boycott the meeting as this "showed their unwillingness to set aside their political interests."

"If they believe the discussions are going nowhere during the meeting, then they could leave. But to reject outright the President's invitation with their usual excuses is not good for the nation," he said.

Malacañang, however, does not want to keep the opposition in the dark about what would transpire at the meeting.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said yesterday the Palace would make sure those who would not be at the meeting would receive copies of its highlights.

Bunye reiterated that the Palace respected the decision of those who had opted not to attend.

"Be that as it may, the meeting will push through for the national interest and copies of the highlights will be sent to those who cannot come," he said in his "View from the Palace" newspaper column.

The Jan. 24 meeting was called by the Palace upon the suggestion of former President Fidel Ramos.

It intends to take up the current initiatives on Charter change, the government's economic programs and the implementation of electoral reforms.

Presidential Political Adviser Gabriel Claudio said it was possible the council would take up the recent attempts at destabilizing the administration.

Claudio said five senators had confirmed their attendance at the meeting but he did not identify them.

In RP, cost of doing business includes paying tax to rebels

PEÑARANDA—BULLETS and Molotov cocktails rained down on a telecom signal tower in this northern Philippine town recently as the "taxman" paid Globe Telecom a midnight visit to force the big mobile phone firm to play its part in bankrolling the communist revolution.

Neighbors roused by the gunfire called for help as the cabin of the tower burned in this farming town, just 80 km north of Manila. But by the time soldiers arrived, the unwelcome visitors had melted into the dark, leaving behind a shaken disarmed security guard who has not shown up for work since.

The attack was not unusual as gunmen spouting Mao employ strong-arm methods more closely associated with organized crime and impose a hefty cost on doing business in the Philippines, officials and experts say.

Compromise

"In terms of revolutionary tax, (businessmen) compromise," said Abraham Purugganan, a former undersecretary for special concerns in the office of President Macapagal-Arroyo and who now provides antiterrorism and risk management advice to government agencies and private companies.

Seven or eight in 10 companies that receive communist demand letters fork over the euphemistically termed "revolutionary tax on the enemy classes" because "there are a lot of things that they can do against you," Purugganan told AFP.

Strikes by communist-led unions that dominate industries can shut down factories; equipment and vehicles can be damaged, and company executives can be ambushed, he said.

Construction, mining and logging, factories, ranches and commercial fisheries, bus lines, truckers and port operators, sugar and coconut mills, and poultry and livestock farmers across the country are all "taxed."

The resulting cash is laundered through "bank to bank" payments, lending institutions, foundations and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).

Payment in kind

The communist levy can also be paid in kind, including "high-powered firearms, explosives, medicine, communication equipment like satellite phones, computers, vehicles, or safe houses," said Purugganan.

Cecilio Salvador, leader of a New People's Army (NPA) guerrilla front south of Manila, insists the rebel tax is voluntary.

"Unlike the Mafia that is shunned," Salvador told AFP in an interview, "when big companies enter a consolidated area, they usually talk to us before they set up a business there."

Globe Telecom says about two dozen of its 5,000-odd towers across the country have been shot up or firebombed in the past year after it stood up to the rebels' demands.

Such sabotage has driven up the insurance premiums on the towers, each worth P7 million, Globe spokesperson Jones Campos told AFP.

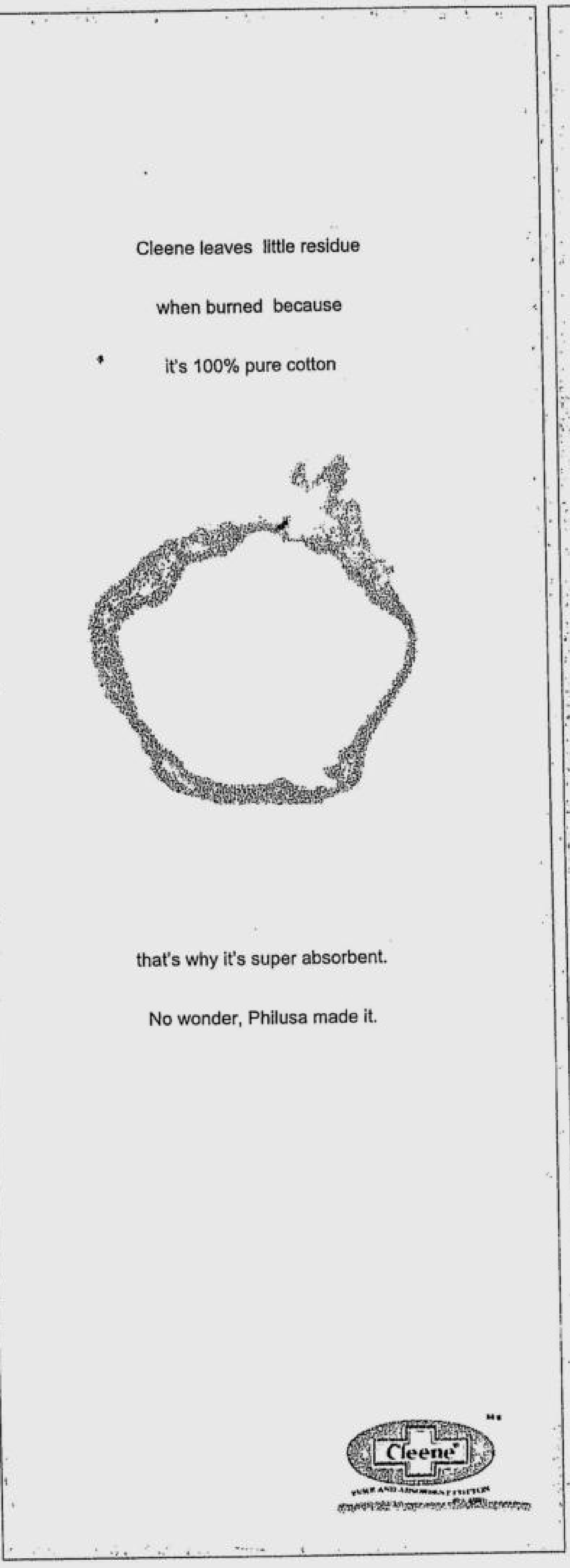
"We will never pay any tax that is not legitimate," he said.

P4B a year

One government study shown to AFP estimated the rebels raise about P4 billion every year for the 37-year-old insurgency, including P1.5 billion collected from companies.

The rest is protection money from politicians, funds skimmed off government or foreign-funded development projects, and proceeds from organized crime.

The funds raised are invested in strategic businesses through dummy corporations in shipping and other industries, while the rebels even get to play "in the world's top stock markets," one government source said, citing captured documents. *AFP*



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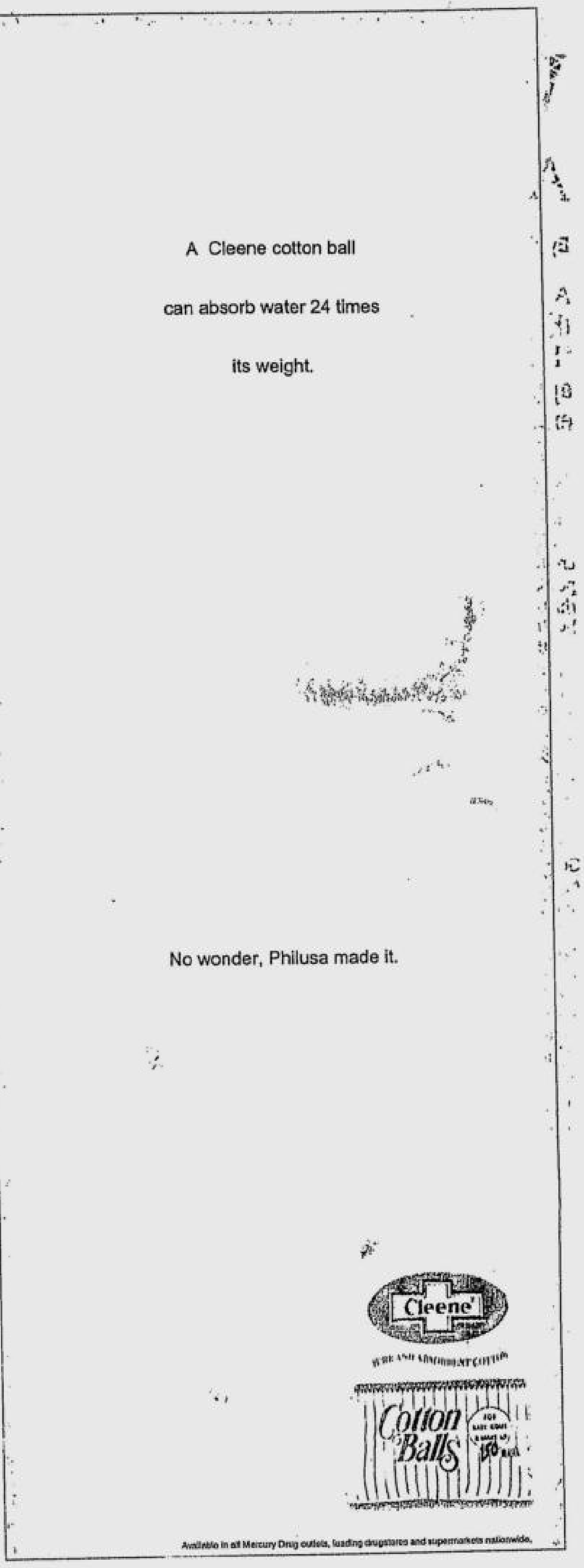

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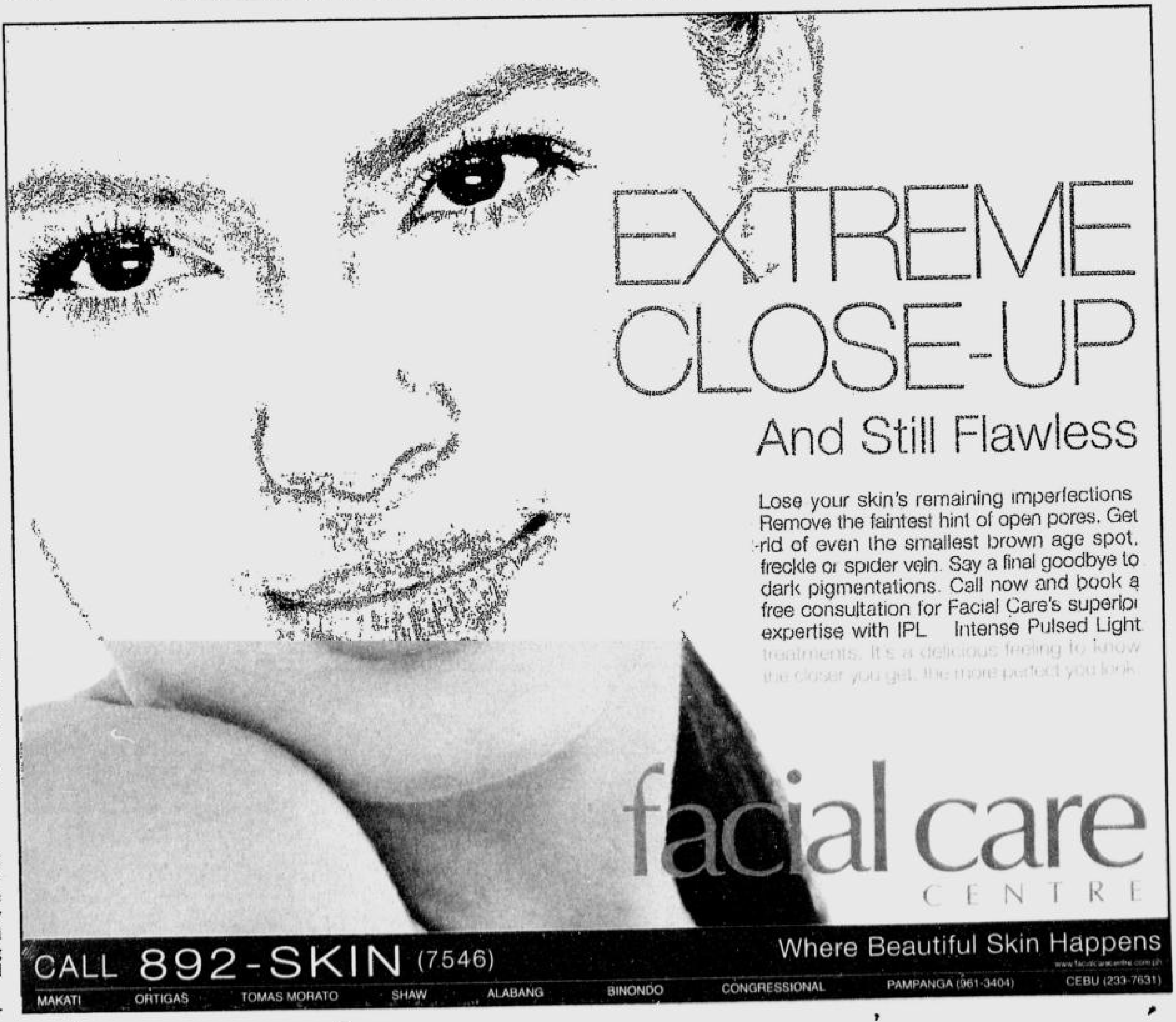

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I hurt him every time I hit him, says Pacquiao

From page A1

the beating of his career. It was the third loss in the last four fights for the Mexican who had held titles in three different weight classes and had been in some bruising fights.

"I was tired because of making weight and I was tired because of all the tough fights I've had," Morales said.

Morales (48-4) had beaten Pacquiao in a 12-round decision in March last year, a loss Pacquiao attributed to problems with his promoter, the taxman and his gloves. He went into the ring Saturday (Sunday in Manila), saying he was 100-percent fit and that there would be no excuses, win or lose.

The first fight was a 12-round brawl, and the rematch promised to live up to expectations early with both fighters trading punches freely and landing clean shots to the head. Pacquiao was busier though and seemed to win some early rounds through the sheer volume of his punches.

No title was at stake, but a lot of national pride was in the bout that drew 14,618 fans to the UNLV campus arena, many cheering their countrymen on.

As the fight went on, it was Pacquiao's supporters doing the most cheering as their idol wore down Morales and landed shot after shot to the head and body.

"I could see he was having problems taking my punches," Pacquiao said. "I had no problem taking his."

Big punch in Round 2

Pacquiao (41-3-1, 32 knockouts) landed a big punch in the second round, a left hand that sent Morales backward and forced him to grab onto the top rope to stay up. Morales also appeared ready to go down at the end of the sixth round after a series of punches in the corner, but bounced off referee Kenny Bayless and stayed upright as the bell sounded to end the round.

Morales outboxed Pacquiao in Rounds 3, 4 and 5. However, that effort seemed to sap the energy of the 30-year-old Mexican as he offered less resistance to Pacquiao's pressure as the fight progressed and Morales looked increasingly weary. Between rounds, he complained that his legs hurt and his cornermen rubbed them.

Morales' corner tried to get their fighter to keep the pressure on, saying Pacquiao didn't know how to fight backward. But Pacquiao didn't have to because he stayed in front of Morales, bouncing back and forth and throwing punches at every angle.

"The tide turned in the sixth round," said Pacquiao's trainer, Freddie Roach. "I could see Morales was fading from all the body punches and Manny's right hook was beautiful."

'He's all gone'

Morales was known all his career as a big puncher who never backed up. But for the last 20 seconds of the ninth round he ran from Pacquiao, trying not to take any more punishment.

"He's all gone," Roach told Pacquiao after the ninth round.

Roach was prescient as Pacquiao came out and kept the pressure on Morales, whose face was marked with the sheer number of punches he took. Midway through the round, Pacquiao landed a huge left hand in the middle of a combination that put Morales on the canvas.

Morales stayed there with his arm over a ring rope before finally getting up at the count of nine. Pacquiao then was all over him, landing a flurry that put a defenseless Morales down and ended the fight.

'I got hit a lot'

"He hit me with a lot of real good hard shots," Morales said. "I got hit in the head a lot."

Pacquiao got $2 million for the fight, but more importantly kept his stature as a national hero in the Philippines.

With the victory Pacquiao was installed as the World Boxing Council's No. 1 contender in the division in which Mexico's Marco Antonio Barrera holds the title. *AP, AFP*

PACQUIAO delivers a hard blow to the face of Morales in Round 9 of their grudge fight. AP

Mexican rushed to hospital

From page A1

the rematch clause in the fight contract was worth honoring.

El Terrible, 29, who had never been floored in 51 previous fights, got a terrible beating. The courageous, complete boxer was a picture of total surrender when he was waved out by referee Kenny Bayless with 27 seconds left in the 10th round.

Morales was puffed—eyebrows busted, nose bleeding, lips cut. The handsome Mexican fighter appeared like a school kid who had been mauled by a gang of thugs at the end of the contest.

The numbing demolition, crafted before a big, restive audience that included world champions like Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Winky Wright, produced contrasting results in the 18,000-seat center.

While Mexicans stood blankly, some of them with tears in their eyes, Filipinos jumped, embraced one another and danced, some shrieking in supreme delight.

It was a scene out of Liberation, as Pacquiao's scintillating triumph lifted the sagging national spirit.

Pacquiao, in a white and red outfit, a white bandana across his forehead, crossed himself, knelt and prayed in his corner upon entering the ring.

He was ahead at midring at the first bell when he clipped Morales with stiff jabs and combinations.

He sustained his hot start through the second round but Morales recomposed himself and took charge in the next round until the fifth.

A mismatch

While their first encounter was a close one, bloody and dramatic, Pacquiao proceeded to turn the second fight into a mismatch starting in the second half by outgunning and overpowering Morales, who had to be rushed to a hospital after.

All three judges had Pacquiao ahead at the moment of stoppage, a tribute to the Filipino boxing superstar's newfound skills and sharpness.

Paul Smith and Jerry Roth had it 87-84, Dave Moretti 86-85, all for Pacquiao.

The INQUIRER scored it 87-84 for Pacquiao.

The fight was for the lowly WBC International super featherweight title, reserved for fighters ranked 11th and lower but the reward for Pacquiao last night was boundless.

Feat a first

The awesome feat was the first of its magnitude and impact for any Filipino athlete.

"I'll be OK," Pacquiao assured his handlers who were visibly shaking in their shoes when the sensational fighter was called into the ring.

His job done, Pacquiao returned to his dressing room to rib his now ecstatic team members.

"I told you I'd do it, *di ba*?" Pacquiao, sporting only a gash over the left eye, quipped.

Pacquiao, a poor boy from Mindanao, had his taste of boxing action while working in the construction company of Polding Correa, his first manager.

Correa was at ringside here yesterday, a special guest of Pacquiao.

Pacquiao, a former WBC flyweight champion, won his second world crown, the IBF super bantamweight title, when he stopped Lehlo Ledwabah of Africa as a last-minute substitute in 2001.

He never gave up

His stock, however, rose prodigiously following his 11th-round demolition of Marco Antonio Barrera, a Mexican boxing legend like Morales, in Texas in 2003.

Barrera is the reigning WBC super featherweight champion and the possibility of him clashing with Pacquiao anew was revived following the humiliating loss suffered by Morales.

Pacquiao, a heavy favorite, was cut, bloodied and outpointed by Morales in their first fight last March.

He, however, refused to give up.

He clamored for a rematch.

Yesterday, with the whole boxing world watching, Pacquiao's boundless perseverance was rewarded with his instant elevation as one of the greatest Filipinos to put on boxing gloves.

Corrections

IN YESTERDAY'S ISSUE, the front-page banner story misstated the Philippine Military Academy class that adopted President Macapagal-Arroyo as its honorary member. Ms Arroyo, who was the Vice President then, was adopted an honorary member by PMA Class 1978—not 1974.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Lorna Kalaw Tirol, readers' advocate, e-mail address: readersadvocate@inquirer.com. ph or fax Nos. 897-47-93/94, Attn: Readers Advocate. Her phone number is 897-8808 Local 342.

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THE INVITATION TO EXCHANGE 3-YEAR ELIGIBLE BONDS WILL EXPIRE AT 4:00 P.M. (MANILA TIME) ON FRIDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2006, UNLESS EXTENDED OR EARLIER TERMINATED.

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The Republic of the Philippines ("the Republic") hereby invites owners of Eligible Bonds to submit offers to exchange Eligible Bonds for Benchmark Bonds, broken down into three subgroups as referred to above (the "Invitation"). The terms and conditions of the exchange offer are set forth in the Offering Circular dated 18 January 2006, copies of which may be obtained from the website of the Bureau of the Treasury of the Philippines, which can be accessed through the Internet addresses www.treasury.gov.ph, or from a Government Securities Eligible Dealer ("GSED"). Interested owners of Eligible Bonds should contact a GSED for any questions they may have.

The purpose of the Invitation is to create new series of Benchmark Bonds which will be larger in size than existing series of peso bonds. Benchmark Bonds are intended to be more liquid and therefore, would trade in the secondary market more efficiently. By creating Benchmark Bonds, the Republic aims to improve markets for investors and thereby lower its borrowing costs over time. The Invitation is part of a broader program of the Republic to manage its liabilities.

This announcement is not an offer or a solicitation of offers. The Invitation is made solely pursuant, and subject to, the Offering Circular. When you make your investment decision, you should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in the Offering Circular and on any further announcements or communication that may be expressly authorized by the Republic. The Republic has not authorized anyone to provide you with information that is different. The Invitation does not constitute, and may not be used in connection with, an offer or solicitation by anyone in any jurisdiction in which such offer or solicitation is not permitted by law or in which the person making such offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so or to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation.

* A full listing of the Eligible Bonds can be found in the Offering Circular dated 18 January 2006 which is available on the website of the Bureau of Treasury of the Philippines (www.treasury.gov.ph).

US: We want to see justice in rape case

By Volt Contreras

TO AVOID A BACKLASH FOLLOWING ITS refusal to hand over four American Marines accused of rape, the US Embassy in Manila yesterday sought to assuage the Philippine government that the United States also wanted to see justice done in the case and the guilty punished.

"We recognize that a case like this stirs strong emotional and political reactions," the US Embassy said. "We believe that the judicial process should take its course in order for justice to be served."

The US Embassy stressed that Washington had the "deepest respect for the sovereignty of its ally," as shown by its cooperation with local authorities since the start of the rape investigation.

"Regarding the current incident, the US and the Philippines share the same goal—we want to see justice done. Rape is a terrible crime, and its perpetrators should be punished whenever and wherever they are found guilty in a fair and impartial trial," the embassy statement said.

But the embassy also issued a reminder on the "core principle" of Philippine and US laws that an accused is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

The Visiting Forces Agreement, it said, clarifies the legal status of visiting American troops and provides the framework for cases to "move forward" if they are charged under Philippine laws.

Irate legislators, however, want the VFA, a seven-year-old accord between the US and the Philippines, to be put on hold and renegotiated following the embassy's refusal to yield the US Marines.

To appease the lawmakers, the US Embassy cited both the military and humanitarian benefits of the VFA.

Since the VFA's signing in 1998, both countries have conducted dozens of joint military exercises, training tens of thousands of US and Philippine soldiers and bringing "significant humanitarian assistance and community service to the Philippines," it said in the Jan. 20 statement.

During a recent joint exercise dubbed "Talon Vision/Phiblex," it said, around 5,000 American and Filipino troops not only trained together to improve operational compatibility and readiness but also "renovated schools and classrooms in Tarlac, donated computers and school supplies, and provided free medical and dental services to more than 2,000 Philippine citizens."

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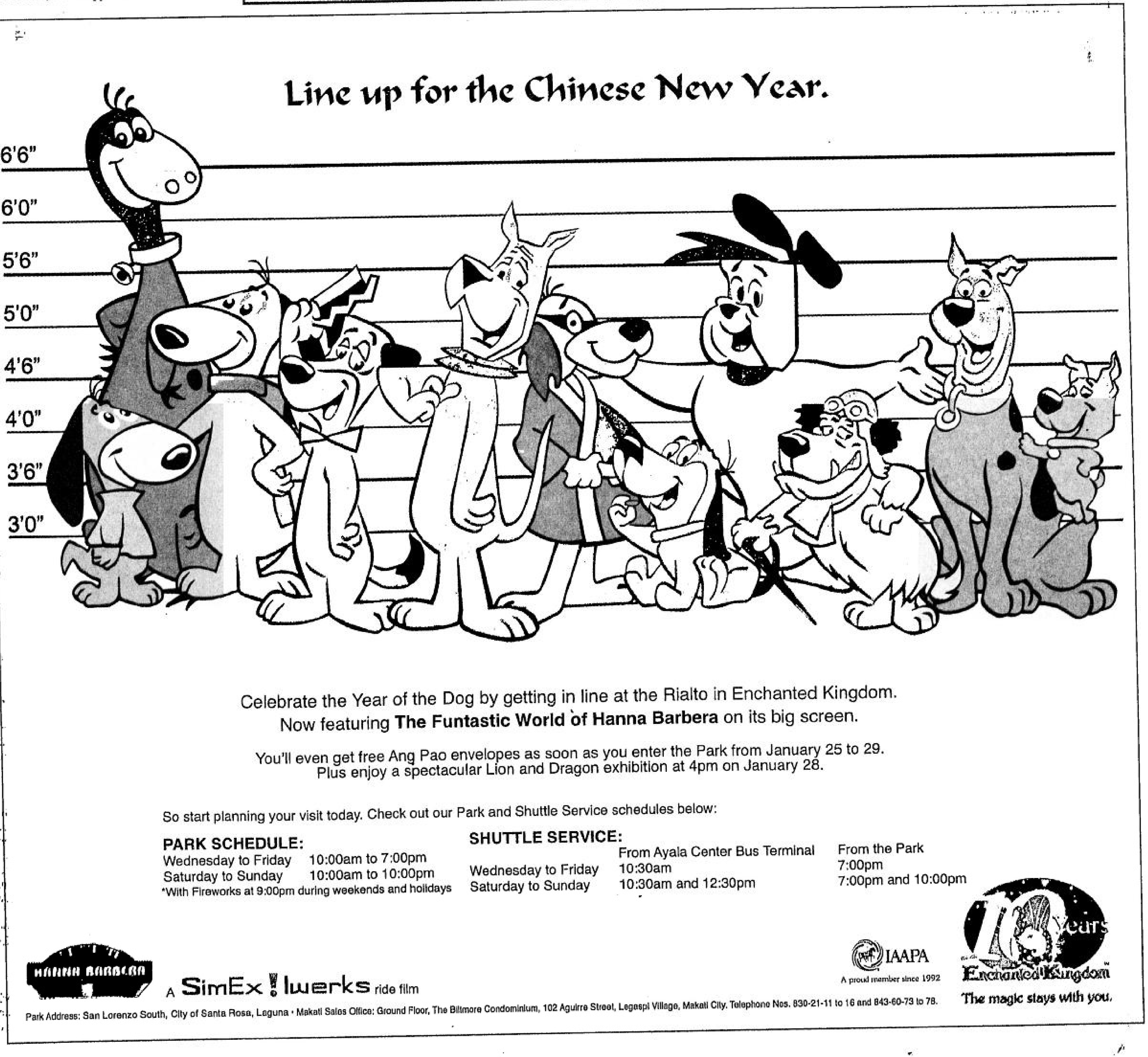

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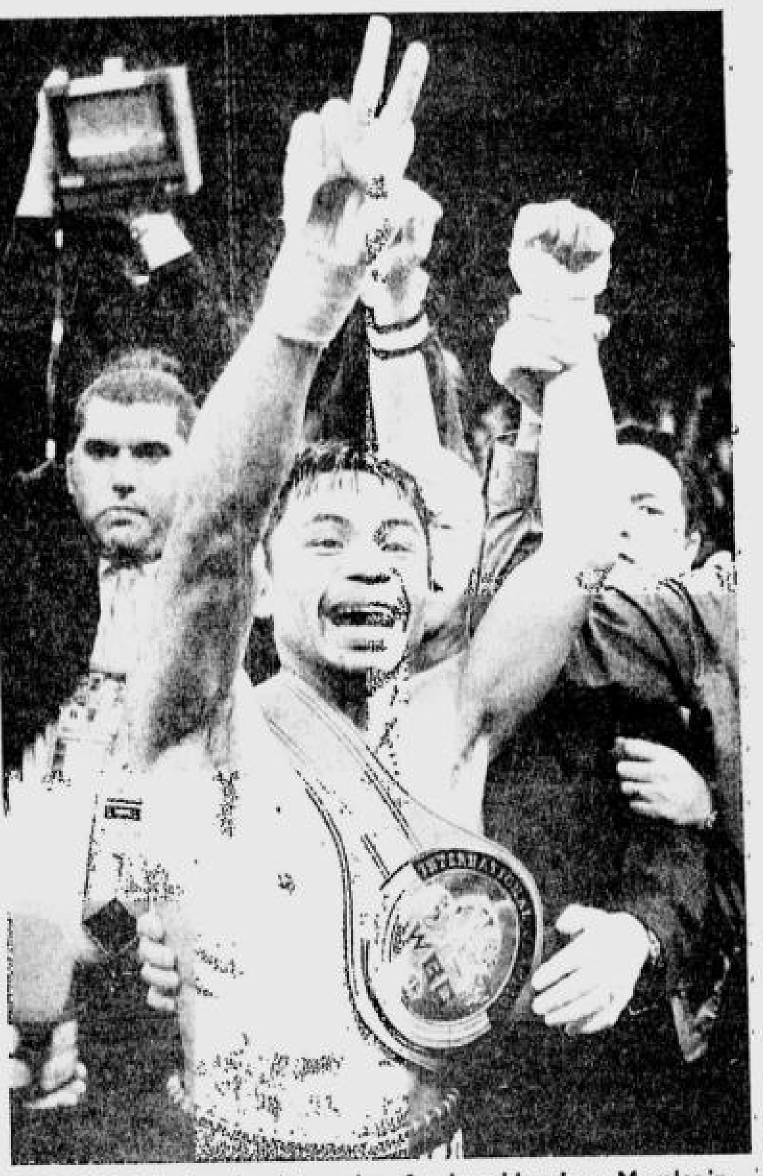

PACQUIAO flashes the victory sign after knocking down Morales in Round 10 of their 12-round bout. AP

One nation ...

From page A1

country on national and cable television when interviewed in his dressing room after the fight.

The boxer was surrounded by Filipino officials, led by First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

Pacquiao profusely thanked the nation for supporting him with its prayers. He admitted he felt like crying over the huge support his compatriots gave him.

"I hope you would continue to support me and, especially to President Macapagal-Arroyo, thank you, thank you very much and to you all, thank you very much," Pacquiao said. "God bless you all."

Pacquiao also spoke by phone to Ms Arroyo, who watched the bout from Malacañang.

"I join Filipinos from every corner of the Philippines and the world in congratulating Manny Pacquiao on his very convincing victory," Ms Arroyo said in a statement.

An inspiration

She said Pacquiao's win should serve "as an inspiration and constant reminder to all our countrymen that the Filipino can be the best in any endeavor when he puts his heart into it."

While the fight was going in Las Vegas on Saturday night (Sunday morning in the Philippines), there were only a few shoppers in the big malls in Metro Manila, despite it being a Sunday.

Many of the usual mall customers apparently stayed home or had gone elsewhere to watch the bout.

Shoppers began to come in at about 3 p.m., when the fight was over.

Cheering every punch

Only light traffic flowed along stretches of Edsa.

In Pampanga, many jeepney and tricycle drivers in San Fernando stopped plying their routes and watched the fight on television at their terminals.

Every Pacquiao punch that found Morales' chin or stomach set up roars of cheering.

"The victory of Manny is a moral booster to all of us Filipinos, especially during these times," said driver Nestor Ocampo.

In Baguio City, traffic was at its lightest in years because most residents stayed home to watch the fight, according to the police.

Hundreds of people converged on Malcolm Square downtown to watch a delayed telecast of the match on a widescreen set up by the ABS-CBN network.

Pretext for reunions

In Barangay Dominican, families used the match as an excuse to hold reunions. Jeepney and taxi drivers also took a breather to watch the match before plying their routes.

But cab driver Marvin Tangganan kept on working.

"I decided to earn a living because the radio already broadcast the fight, and I already knew who won," Tangganan said.

While in Las Vegas watching the fight, Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson acted as the "blow-by-blow commentator" of a radio station in Vigan.

Singson interrupted a religious program of the dwRS Commando Radio to deliver his fight commentary.

In Sorsogon City, hundreds of passengers going to different towns were stranded for hours after jeepney drivers grounded their vehicles to watch the bout.

Deserted streets

The streets were deserted, a scene experienced only during Good Friday. Tricycle drivers also stopped plying their routes.

Restaurants with TV sets were packed with jubilant customers.

But Grace Pascual, administrative officer of SN-dzRS, refused to watch the fight, saying she wouldn't be able to bear it if Pacquiao lost.

From their hideouts somewhere south of Luzon, the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army joined the nation in celebrating the victory of Pacquiao and that of another Filipino, Jimrex Jaca, in an undercard.

Victory for the people

"We salute them for their victory. Their win is also the victory of the people," communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said in a text message. He said he followed the fight on radio.

When asked if the rebels momentarily stopped their operations against government forces so they could monitor the bout, Rosal said: "The NPA operations against the enemies continued even while some of the Red fighters were monitoring the fight."

In Cotabato City, the Moro Islamic liberation Front congratulated Pacquiao on his feat.

"We expected that he would win the bout. We join the Filipino people not only in the country but those overseas as well in celebrating his victory," MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said on the phone.

"We support him. We are happy that even in sports, our group feels the spirit of unity," Kabalu added.

He said the front provided its forces in the field with TV sets so they could watch the fight.

Politicians were also ebullient.

Sen. Richard Gordon said the fight was spectacular and noted how Pacquiao was "focused" throughout.

"That's one thing we Filipinos lack. He also showed the Pinoy is world-class," Gordon said.

Sen. Edgardo Angara said of Pacquiao: "He's a national treasure. Let's take care of him and let's not push him to exhaust himself."

Sen. Francis Pangilinan called Pacquiao "truly the Filipino people's champion." *With reports from Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Leoncio Balbin Jr., Frank Cimatu and Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Delfin T. Mallari Jr. and Bobby Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Michael Lim Ubac, Luige del Puerto and TJ Burgonio in Manila, and PDI Mindanao Bureau, AFP*

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Tutors score GSIS, want insurance fund of their own

By Alcuin Papa

EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DepEd) want out of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) because of the alleged inefficiency of the state-run pension fund.

Instead, they are proposing the creation of a separate insurance system to cater exclusively to both teaching and nonteaching personnel of the DepEd.

DepEd National Employees Union president Domingo Alidon said the creation of their own insurance system will finally address teachers' complaints against the GSIS.

He said the GSIS had been remiss in its handling of teachers' records.

"Until now, our records at GSIS are incorrect and incomplete. Our dividends are not accurately computed," Alidon said. He said most of the complaints they received were from employees who were supposed to receive P2,000 (in dividends) annually but received only P120.

The DepEd is the largest government employer in the country with over half a million workers, the majority of whom are public school teachers.

Alidon said the union would present to Congress a draft bill that would provide for the creation of a separate insurance body for the DepEd similar to the insurance system for soldiers.

He said that DepEd employees could not avail of loans from the GSIS because Union Bank, which has a contract with the GSIS to service its electronic card (E-Card), had stopped processing loans because of the incorrect, inaccurate and sometimes non-existent records of DepEd employees with the GSIS.

The DepEd union had earlier protested the allocation of P17.2 million to the GSIS for the updating of DepEd records. The union said the amount was "unfair and unreasonable if not illegal."

"It is very disadvantageous for the members to suffer the consequences for the incompetence and inefficiency of the GSIS management," Alidon said.

Instead of spending the amount to correct the GSIS' mistake, "the money could have been converted into dividends in favor of the members."

Alidon also asked the GSIS to post and update payments already made by DepEd employees, saying they had been religious in paying their loans and premiums to the GSIS.

Probe set of huge Semirara oil spill

THE SPECIAL BOARD OF MARINE INQUIRY will start its investigation into the massive oil spill that contaminated some 40 sq km of the waters off Semirara island in Antique last month and destroyed mangroves and corals in the area.

SBMI Iloilo board member Lt. Donette A. Dolina said the board has summoned the National Power Corp., whose barge spilled some 198,000 liters of oil off Semirara on Dec. 18.

"It's a clarificatory hearing, more on fact finding to determine if it was an accident or if Napocor has a liability," Dolina said.

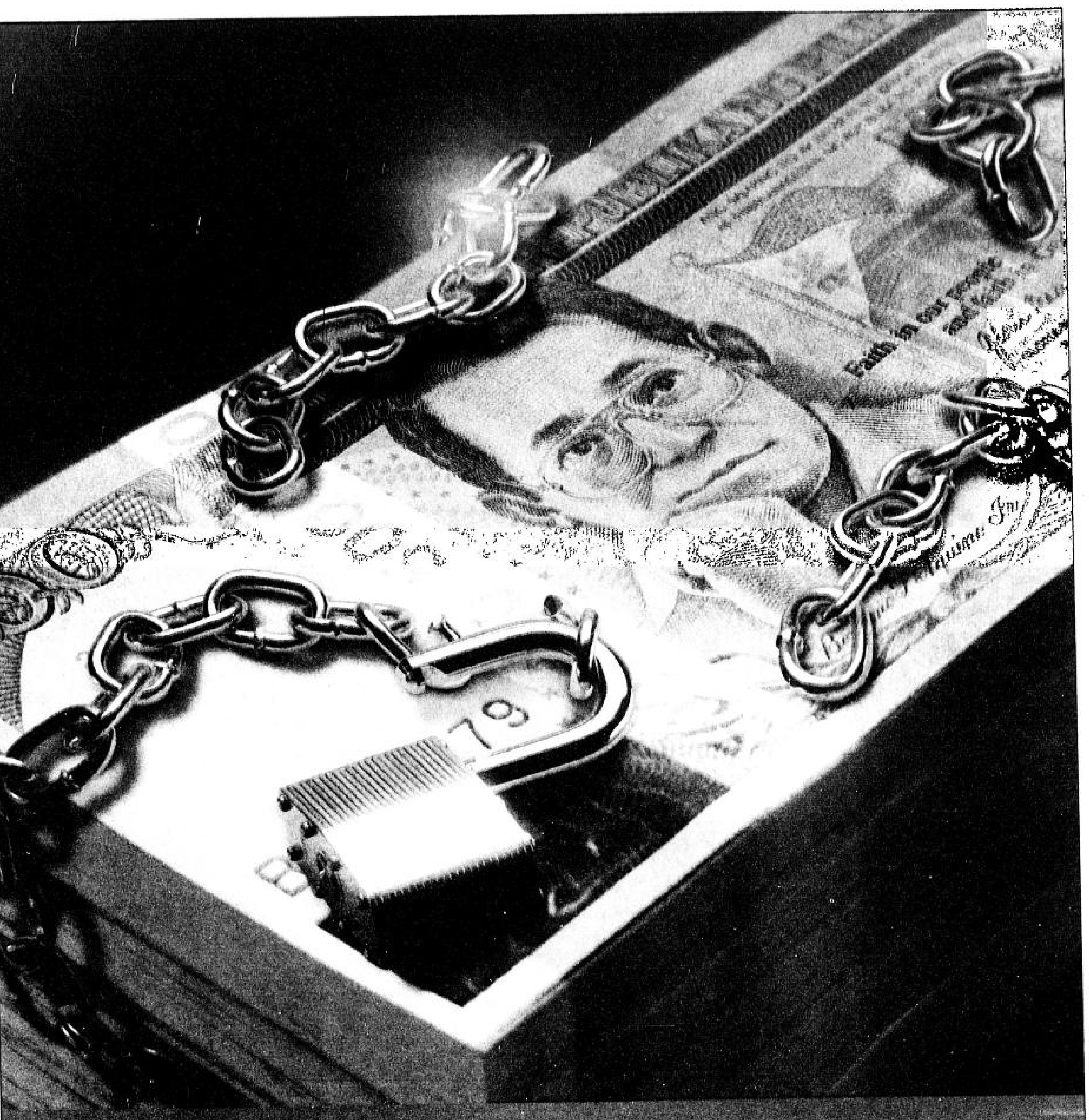
The hearing will be held on Jan. 31 in Iloilo, the district of the Philippine Coast Guard which has jurisdiction over the contaminated waters. The original hearing was scheduled for Jan. 18 but Napocor sought an extension because its lawyer could not appear earlier.

The PCG estimated that the massive oil spill damaged 236 hectares of mangroves bordering the island, of which 80 ha were old growth. The PCG also noted dead seagrass and corals in the area.

"The administrative penalties would depend on the volume of the oil spilled," Dolina said.

The SBMI is composed of four members—a lawyer, chief engineer, master mariner and a line officer of the PCG, which in this case is Commander Ignacio Dilaflor, deputy first commander of the district.

Napocor has hired about 50 casual workers to clean up the oil spill, according to the PCG, which estimated the total cost of the cleanup would reach P80 million and take four months to finish. *Blanche S. Rivera*



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Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

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PHILHEALTH Advisory
No. 07-001-2005

For all employers in the government and private sectors

EFFECTIVE January 1, 2006, a new PhilHealth premium contribution schedule for the employed sector will be implemented per PhilHealth Circular No. 01, s-2005. Below is the contribution schedule for reference:

Monthly Salary Bracket	Monthly Salary Range	Salary Base (SB)	Total Monthly Contribution	Employee Share (EeS) (EeS = 0.5 x TMC)	Employer Share (ErS) (ErS = 0.5 x TMC)
1	P4,999.99 and below	P4,000.00	P100.00	P50.00	P50.00
2	5,000.00 to 5,999.99	5,000.00	125.00	62.50	62.50
3	6,000.00 to 6,999.99	6,000.00	150.00	75.00	75.00
4	7,000.00 to 7,999.99	7,000.00	175.00	87.50	87.50
5	8,000.00 to 8,999.99	8,000.00	200.00	100.00	100.00
6	9,000.00 to 9,999.99	9,000.00	225.00	112.50	112.50
7	10,000.00 to 10,999.99	10,000.00	250.00	125.00	125.00
8	11,000.00 to 11,999.99	11,000.00	275.00	137.50	137.50
9	12,000.00 to 12,999.99	12,000.00	300.00	150.00	150.00
10	13,000.00 to 13,999.99	13,000.00	325.00	162.50	162.50
11	14,000.00 to 14,999.99	14,000.00	350.00	175.00	175.00
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Israel hints it is preparing military action against Iran

JERUSALEM—DEFENSE MINISTER SHAUL MOFAZ ON SATURDAY hinted that Israel is preparing for military action to stop Iran's nuclear program, but said international diplomacy must be the first course of action.

"We are giving priority at this stage to diplomatic action ... but in any case we cannot tolerate a nuclear option for Iran and we must prepare ourselves," Mofaz said at a prestigious academic conference in the coastal town of Herzliya, north of Tel Aviv.

"We must develop the option of our defense with all that implies," Mofaz said without providing further details.

"We must treat the (Iranian) threat responsibly and with utmost seriousness," Mofaz said, renewing accusations that Tehran was supporting "terrorism" by funding militant groups.

"Iran gives (Lebanese Shiite group) Hezbollah $100 million per year, and part of this money goes to Palestinian terrorist groups," he said.

"In addition, Iran is the primary source of money for Islamic Jihad which committed the majority of suicide attacks against Israel last year."

Mofaz's comments were likely to add to the growing tensions with Iran.

Israel has come to view the Islamic republic in Tehran as its number one enemy and its fears were heightened when Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in October called for the Jewish state to be "wiped off the map." It accuses the Tehran government of pursuing nuclear weapons.

Iran faces the threat of being referred to the UN Security Council for resuming sensitive nuclear fuel research work that Israel and the Western powers fear would give the regime the knowhow to build a bomb.

Tehran insists such work is legal given it has signed the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and has branded atomic weapons "un-Islamic."

Mofaz welcomed the US-led effort to bring Iran before the Security Council, saying sanctions and international oversight of Iran's nuclear program is the "correct policy at this time." But he suggested that Israel is preparing for military action if the diplomatic efforts fail.

"Israel will not be able to accept an Iranian nuclear capability and it must have the capability to defend itself, with all that that implies, and this we are preparing," Mofaz said.

The defense minister's remarks came after interim Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said Tuesday that Israel would not let anyone who threatened its existence obtain weapons of mass destruction.

"Israel cannot allow in any way or at any stage someone who has such hostile intentions against us to obtain weapons that could threaten our existence," Olmert said in talks with President Moshe Katsav.

Israeli leaders have repeatedly said they hope the crisis can be resolved through diplomacy, and that any military action would have to be part of an international effort. Israeli officials have denied having plans for a unilateral preventive strike.

The Jewish state has never acknowledged the existence of a nuclear arsenal, though it is widely believed to possess hundreds of atomic weapons.

Mofaz accused Iran of helping mastermind a suicide bombing that wounded 20 people in Tel Aviv last week. Iran said on Saturday that the allegations were baseless.

During a trip to Syria last week, Ahmadinejad met with leaders of Islamic Jihad, the group that carried out the bombing, and challenged Europe to take back the Jews who emigrated to Israel. It was the latest in a string of comments questioning Israel's existence.

AP, AFP

Kosovo's President Rugova dies; delicate talks delayed

PRISTINA, SERBIA-MONTENEGRO—KOSOVO President Ibrahim Rugova died of cancer at the age of 61 on Saturday, his office said, forcing the United Nations to delay delicate talks on the contested province's future status.

Rugova's death at his home in the provincial capital Pristina came just four days before the first face-to-face talks on Kosovo between Albanian leaders and the Serbia government were to be held in Vienna.

In the talks, the negotiating team representing Kosovo's ethnic Albanians, which Rugova was due to lead, is demanding nothing short of independence from Serbia, which the government in Belgrade firmly opposes.

"Rugova died in his residence, where he has been treated for his illness, surrounded by his family, personal doctors and US doctors," said a presidential office statement, adding he had shown "enormous courage and high morale" in his battle with the disease.

"The president's death is a great loss for the Kosovo people in a decisive moment for our future," said Kosovo's government. "The government calls upon the citizens to remain peaceful and continue working toward building a better future for all."

The government later said it had proposed five days of mourning. Rugova's funeral would be held Wednesday, pending agreement by his family and procedures.

The chief UN special envoy for the talks, former Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari, said in Helsinki that the talks would be postponed until early February.

It was not clear who would replace Rugova as the head of the Albanian talks team, but his position as president was temporarily filled by Kosovo Parliament Speaker Nexhat Daci.

Ahtisaari joined other world leaders by urging Kosovars to keep their calm.

Ethnic tensions remain despite the end of the conflict between Serbian forces and separatist Albanian rebels more than six and a half years ago.

"I'm certain that President Rugova would have liked to see that we will proceed with status negotiations so that results can be achieved," said Ahtisaari, adding he hoped "the situation will remain calm."

Serbian President Boris Tadic said the death of Rugova would be a "great loss" for Kosovo Albanians. He said he hoped his absence would not derail efforts to find a peaceful compromise acceptable to both parties.

Rugova, who symbolized the peaceful resistance to the repression of the regime of former Yugoslav leader Slobodan Milosevic, was a chain-smoker who revealed in September that he was suffering from lung cancer.

RUGOVA is seen in photo taken Dec. 23, 2005, the last time he was seen in public. AFP

Despite appearing in public on Dec. 23, his illness had caused further instability in Kosovo because the status talks team had not been able to meet for 40 days.

Kosovo has been run by the United Nations and Nato since June 1999, when alliance air strikes led Serbian forces under Milosevic to withdraw from the province, where they had been cracking down on separatists.

Rugova was born in Kosovo on Dec. 2, 1944, and went on to Paris' Sorbonne University before becoming a prominent author and leading intellectual in ex-Yugoslavia.

He first appeared on the diplomatic scene in 1989 and founded his Democratic League of Kosovo party the next year in response to Milosevic's decision to revoke Kosovo's autonomy.

Seen by many as the "father of the nation," Rugova maintained close ties with the West, particularly Washington. Although he never sought the limelight, he was awarded the Sakharov Prize for freedom of thought in 1998.

He was criticized for his description of the Kosovo Liberation Army (UCK) guerrillas as a group "possibly formed by Belgrade, which aims to discredit peaceful Kosovo Albanian politics."

A political feud ensued between his party and the UCK, which quickly won the support of the ethnic Albanian population.

Rugova was also an easy target for hardliners who charged he collaborated with Milosevic on April 1, 1999, by meeting with him in Belgrade, a few days after the start of the 78-day Nato bombing campaign and appearing on Serbian television to call for a "political solution."

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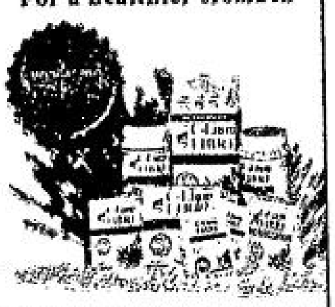

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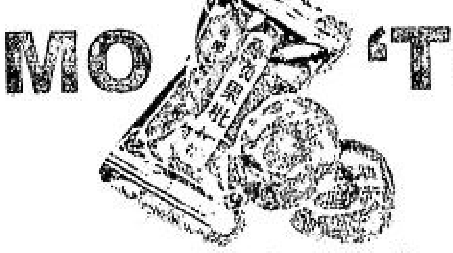

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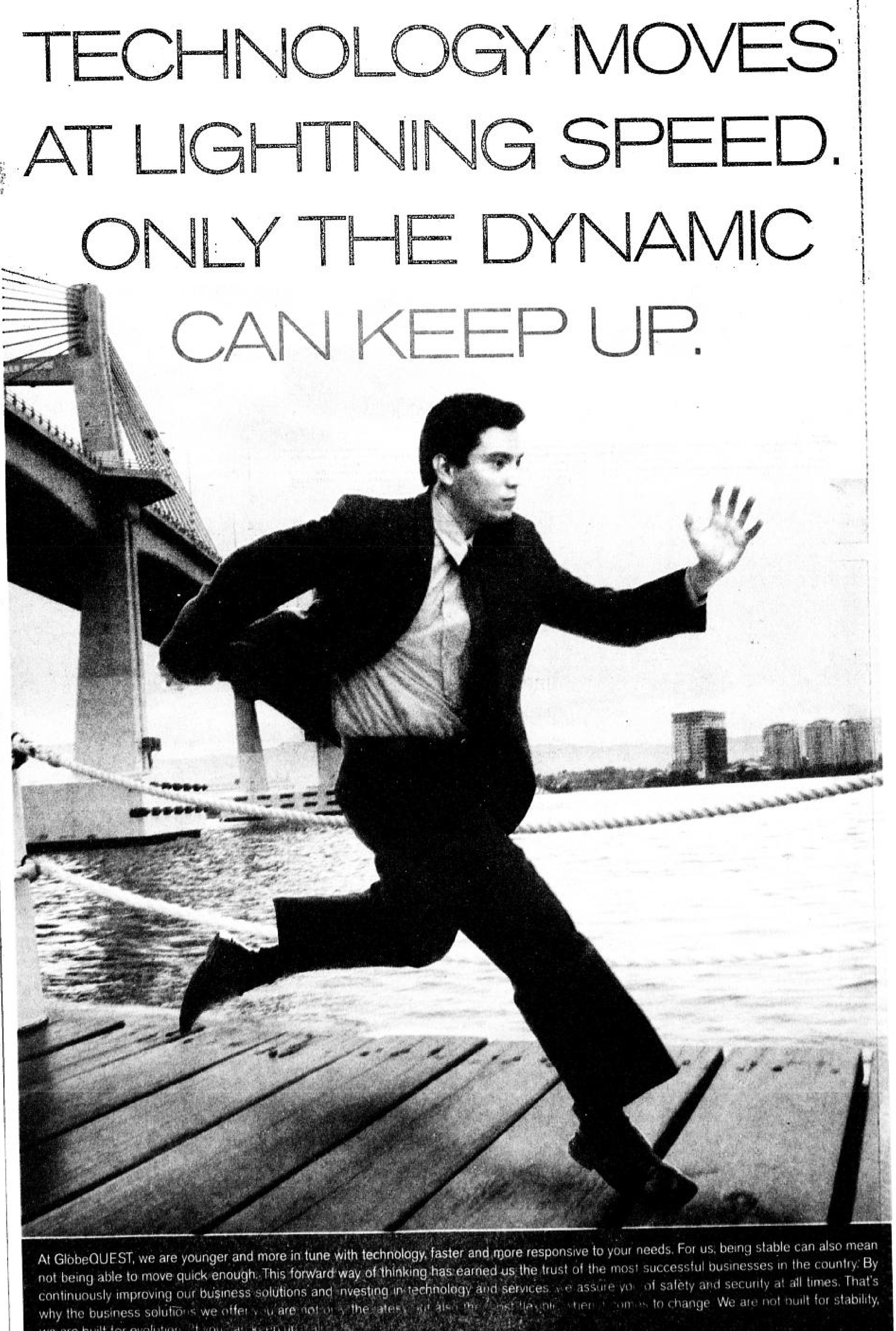
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Showdown looms in Nepal as king refuses to budge

KATHMANDU — AS thousands of pro-democracy protesters fought running battles with police on the streets of the capital this weekend, Nepal's king sat regally unmoved hundreds of miles away in the east of the country.

When he returns to Kathmandu on Sunday, after a three-week "informal visit" to the countryside, his reaction to the latest twists in a long-running political crisis will be closely watched. So far there is no indication that he is prepared to compromise, analysts and diplomats say.

"Things are headed for confrontation if he doesn't respond to what people are demanding," said Yubaraj Ghimire, editor of the Samay news weekly. "Then we would get into a phase of bloodshed and more repression."

King Gyanendra seized absolute power last February, finally losing patience with politicians he accused of ruining the country. But royal rule has brought no relief to his dirt-poor Himalayan kingdom, with civil liberties squeezed, human rights trampled and a Maoist rebellion undeterred.

"He has all the characteristics of an autocrat," said one Western diplomat.

"What we have seen in the last year is a systematic attempt to destroy major democratic parties and to undermine their leadership, and to place monarchists in key positions in local government, the civil service, security forces and constitutional bodies."

Reuters

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US made the whipping boy in tense Canadian election

MONTREAL—PRIME MINISTER PAUL MARTIN once made nursing Canada's bruised relations with Washington a priority—but has used America as a whipping boy in his desperate bid to retain power.

Facing defeat in Monday's general election, Martin has accused his main rival, Conservative leader Stephen Harper, of harboring a secret hardline agenda more in tune with US arch conservatives than mainstream Canadians.

Annoying Canada's southern neighbor and biggest trading partner—not to mention the world's sole superpower—may seem questionable diplomacy.

But in a country with a social safety net more in line with liberal Europe than conservative America, and where suspicion of Bush runs high, it can be good politics.

Martin's Liberal Party warned in an attack ad that a Harper win would "bring a smile to George W. Bush's face."

And the prime minister himself has not been shy of slinging his own mud, claiming Harper's agenda is "really drawn from the extreme right in the United States."

And he has even sparred with the US ambassador to Canada, after ticking off Washington for its refusal to join a multilateral plan to cut greenhouse gases which emerged from a US climate conference here in December.

Harper shares US criticisms of the Kyoto accord on climate change, which Canada has ratified, though fallen short on implementing.

He signaled he would review Martin's decision last year not to join the US missile defense shield.

Harper has also pledged to boost the military, a move that would also be popular in Washington, where officials are disdainful of Canada's ability to secure the neighbors' vast mutual border. *AFP*

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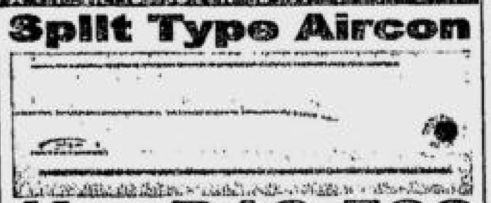
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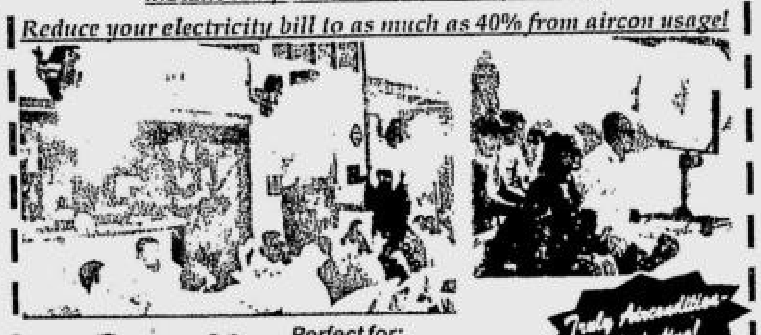
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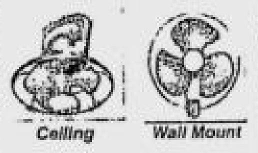
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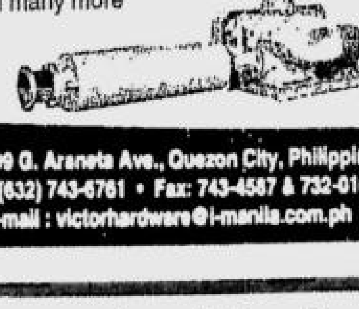
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Pakistan says US strike at al-Qaida leaders was 'counterproductive'

ISLAMABAD—PAKISTAN'S OPPOSITION Islamic alliance said Sunday it will step up protests against a US missile strike that targeted al-Qaida's leaders but killed 13 civilians, and the president told the US to halt such actions.

The opposition has already launched demonstrations against the Jan. 13 attack, with thousands burning effigies of US President George W. Bush—and many vowing to fight a Jihad, or holy war, against the United States.

The strike apparently targeted—but missed—al-Qaida's No. 2 leader Ayman al-Zawahri at Damadola town near the Afghan border in Pakistan's mountainous Bajur region. Pakistani officials believe it wiped out four other top al-Qaida operatives, but also killed at least 13 civilians including women and children.

Pakistan does not allow US forces in Afghanistan to pursue militants across the border, or to launch strikes without permission. Washington has refused to publicly discuss the attack on Damadola, with officials mostly saying the United States will continue pursuing terrorists no matter where they were.

In comments aired Sunday on Pakistan's independent GEO television station, visiting US Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns would only say Washington has full "respect" for Pakistan's government.

"The government of Pakistan has taken the lead in commenting on this situation, and it is proper because this is your country," said Burns, who is on a tour of South Asia. "It's a sovereign entity, we respect that ... I think we've handled this situation in an appropriate way."

The assault has caused friction between Islamabad and Washington—and widespread outrage in the Islamic nation of 150 million.

The latest protest was set for later Sunday in Inayat Qala town near Damadola.

On Monday, a mass march was slated to move from Pakistan's capital, Islamabad, to the radical hotbed of Peshawar and then on to Damadola, said Shahid Shamsi, a spokesperson for the opposition alliance called the Mutahida Majlis-e-Amal, or United Action Forum.

On Saturday, Pakistan's President Gen. Pervez Musharraf told the United States it cannot repeat such attacks, while Foreign Minister Khursheed Kasuri called the assault "counterproductive" given the "prevailing public sentiment."

Musharraf told Burns that "what happened in Bajur must not be repeated," a foreign ministry official said on condition of anonymity due to policy.

"While reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to counterterrorism, the foreign minister underlined the need for the two countries to work in a manner that precludes recent incidents like Bajur," a foreign ministry statement said Saturday night.

GEO television station also said Musharraf told Burns that Pakistan is "fully capable of defending its frontiers," and that repeated attacks could affect cooperation in the war on terror, in which Islamabad is a top US ally.

Shamsi said Musharraf's first publicized comments on issue were simply "too late." *AP*

RESCUERS begin their attempt to help a north
Thames in the heart of London, Jan. 21. They ai

Kuwait in crisis a
to oust new emir

KUWAIT CITY—KUWAIT plunged into crisis Saturday as the Cabinet decided to start unprecedented procedures to remove the country's ailing new emir, who in turn insisted on taking the oath of office.

The Cabinet decision was announced following a lengthy emergency meeting chaired by powerful Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, who has been anointed by a majority of members of the ruling family to replace the emir.

The move apparently came after last-minute goodwill moves failed to persuade the emir to abdicate, as Sheikh Saad al-Abdullah al-Sabah asked parliament Saturday to convene a special session so that he could be sworn in.

A government statement said "the Council of Ministers ... decided to initiate constitutional procedures stipulated in Article 3 of the 1964 Emirates Inheritance Law," which stipulates the removal of the

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Japan gov't hit over US beef flap

TOKYO—OPPOSITION LEADERS IN JAPAN took the government to task Sunday for lifting a ban on US beef imports last month, only to be forced to reimpose it over a shipment containing banned animal matter.

"The government's political responsibility is extremely grave," Yoshihiko Noda, chief of parliamentary affairs for the main opposition Democratic Party, said on a panel discussion carried by public broadcaster NHK.

"The government dared to take the decision (on the resumption of US beef imports) without guaranteeing the effectiveness of the inspection system," he said.

Tokyo had agreed to resume US beef imports last month provided they came from US cattle no more than 20 months old and risky animal parts, such as brains and spinal material, were removed.

But a US beef shipment flown into Tokyo's Narita airport on Friday was found to include spinal columns, prompting Japan to reimpose the ban over fears of mad cow disease.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Shinzo Abe on Saturday pledged to lodge a formal protest with the US administration when Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick holds talks with top officials in Japan this week.

Abe, a close ally of Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, and Foreign Minister Taro Aso were scheduled to meet Zoellick here on Monday.

Noda said a fact-finding team from his party had determined that US facilities to inspect beef for export were poorly organized. *AFP*

China draws $96B from tourism in '05

BEIJING—CHINA'S TOURISM SECTOR earned $96 billion last year and will likely grow by 8 percent this year as the country climbs up the ladder of top travel destinations, state media said Sunday.

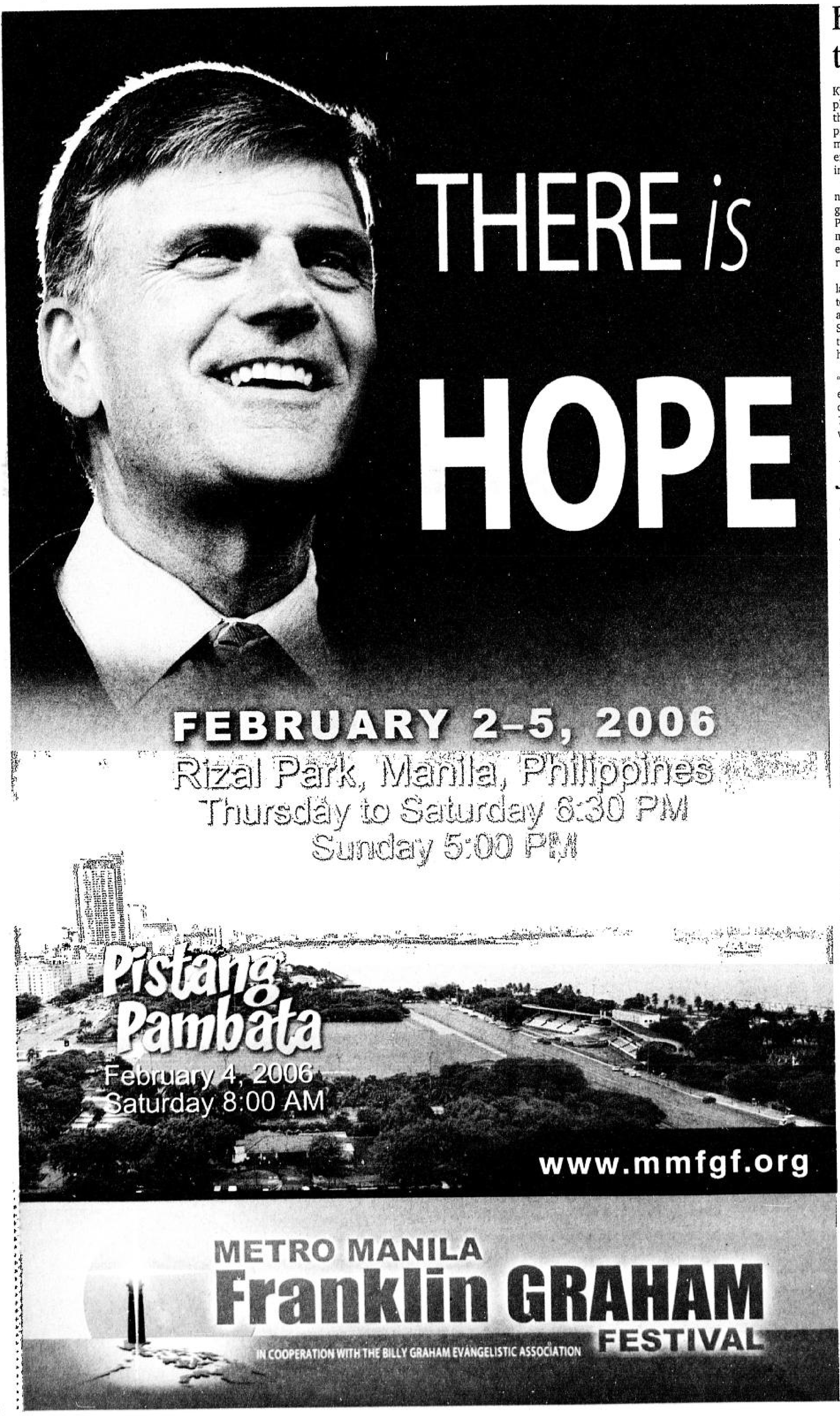
China received 120 million overseas visitors in 2005 and saw 31 million outbound travellers, the Xinhua news agency reported. Travellers from Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan are considered overseas visitors.

Income from domestic tourism reached 528.6 billion yuan ($66 billion) while earnings from international travellers surpassed $29.3 billion, Xinhua cited the China National Tourism Administration as saying.

China's tourism industry has been developing rapidly in recent years, with inbound, outbound and domestic markets growing prosperously.

Shao Qiwei, director of the administration, predicted China would see 130 million inbound travellers this year, up 8 percent from the previous year, Xinhua said.

The industry is expected to grow by eight percent a year until the end of the decade. *AFP*



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Lost whale that stole heart of Londoners dies

ern bottle-nosed whale that has been lost in the river
n to lift it onto a barge and take it out to sea. AFP

LONDON—A LOST NORTHERN BOTTLE-nosed whale that swam up the River Thames into central London and captured the heart of Britons died Saturday after rescue workers tried to ship it back to the wild.

In an operation watched by riverbank crowds and covered live on television, marine experts hoisted the whale onto a barge after having tracked it since Friday, and sailed it back down the Thames toward the sea.

But the health of the five-to six-meter whale, ailing and exhausted after its mysterious two-day sojourn in freshwater, took a turn for the worse on the barge as it sailed toward the Thames estuary.

"We had a phone call from the vet saying that it had started convulsing and while he was on the phone it died," said Alan Knight, chair of the British Divers Marine Life Rescue group.

"It was still about two hours away from the planned release place."

The time of death was around 7 p.m.

Though no cause of death was immediately available, experts had warned that the whale might not be able to cope with the noise and chaos around it as well as the pressure of its own weight on its internal organs.

They also said its lungs and eyes might have been damaged in the freshwater.

Such a rare sight in London—the first northern bottlenose recorded here since records began nearly a century ago—triggered popular wonder, amazement and sympathy, all summed up in a Daily Mail headline: "Free Willy!"

And it generated round-the-clock live television coverage.

Hopes had risen at one point of a happy Hollywood ending, as in the movie on which the headline was based.

But when it ended tragically, Sky News was flooded with sad and wistful e-mails from the nation. "So very sad that the magnificent efforts of so many to save the Thames whale were in vain," wrote Ken Benge.

It had all started as a curiosity when first reports emerged early Friday of a whale in the British capital when a man traveling on a train called the authorities after first thinking he was hallucinating.

Soon Londoners and foreign tourists had flocked to the banks of the Thames to catch a glimpse of the disoriented whale, which had swam more than 40 miles from the open sea. *AFP*

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s Cabinet decides for health reasons

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mad al-Sabah, a half-
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Under the law, if the emir's health prevents him from carrying out his duties, the Cabinet should ask parliament to relieve him of his powers, paving the way for the appointment of a new ruler.

To depose the emir, parliament needs a two-thirds majority of the 65-member house, which includes 16 Cabinet ministers who can also vote.

If Sheikh Saad is removed, it would be the first time a ruler has been stripped of his powers for more than a century.

On Friday, an official statement on the meeting at Sheikh Sabah's house run by the official KUNA news agency did not refer to Sheikh Saad as emir, but the Cabinet's statement on Saturday did so.

State-run television showed hundreds of members of the ruling family gathered at Sheikh Sabah's house, expressing their loyalty to him and asking him to "lead" the country. *AFP*

MISS AMERICA Jennifer Berry, Miss Oklahoma, poses during the swimsuit competition of the 2006 Miss America Pageant at the Aladdin Theatre for the Performing Arts 21 January 2006 in Las Vegas, Nevada. AFP

Pope's personal army marks 500th anniversary

VATICAN CITY—THE SWISS GUARD, THE POPE'S PERsonal army of mercenaries and an unlikely relic of Europe's troubled, war-torn past, on Sunday celebrates its 500th anniversary.

It will be a birthday party to remember. There will be a cascade of ceremonies over the next few months, culminating in a mass celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI himself on May 6, the day each year when new recruits are admitted to the world's smallest and oldest standing army.

The commemorative festivities will begin in the Sistine Chapel on Sunday with a mass for the 110 members of the Pontiff's guard, presided by the Vatican's Secretary of State Angelo Sodano.

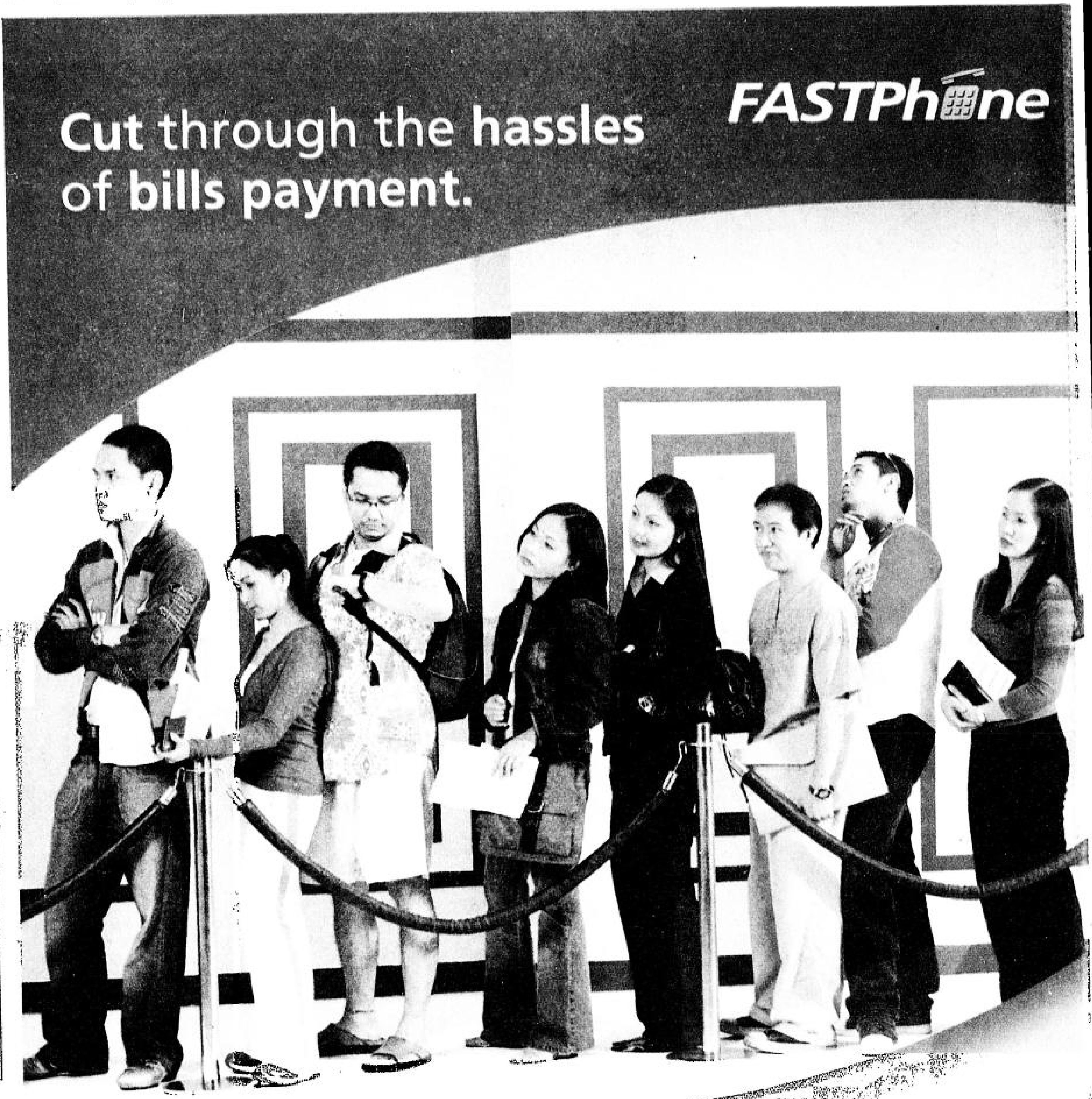
Later the same day a 70-strong honor guard, decked out in their medieval military costumes of blue, red and yellow, will receive the Pope's blessing in St. Peter's Square. This event reenacts the moment five centuries ago when the first contingent of 150 Helvetian soldiers—renowned for their fighting prowess—passed through the Porto del Popolo and into the Vatican, where they were blessed by Julius II.

Ever since then, the requirements for joining this elite force have been almost the same: "I am a Swiss citizen, a Roman Catholic faithful, of good moral ethical background, between 19-30, at least 174 centimeters tall, and not married," reads a partial list addressed to potential applicants.

On April 7, a contingent of ex-guards from Switzerland will begin a four-week "march toward Rome" along the same route taken by their military forebears, arriving in time for the swearing-in ceremony presided over by Benedict XVI.

The attendant parade usually takes place in the San Damasco Courtyard, but this year will be in St. Peter's Square for the first time.

Driven from their impoverished, Alpine cantons in the 15th and 16th centuries, thousands of young mercenaries enrolled in the armies of the fiefdoms, kingdoms and city states that were constantly at war in France, Italy and Germany during the early Renaissance. *AFP*



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OPINION

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Fight

EDITORIAL

EVEN IF HE HAD LOST, BOXING ICON MANNY PACquiao still would have done the country proud. He had learned his lessons from the first fight with Mexican superstar Erik Morales 10 months ago and, as teachers say approvingly of exemplary students, applied himself. Yesterday's rematch showed a disciplined athlete doing what had to be done: Pacquiao used his right hand more often, gunned for the body, put up his hands in defense throughout, remembered his footwork. As a result, he fought a much better fight than the last time.

Another thing: He had also learned to be patient. He did not put all his hopes on a knockout win; instead, he followed the game plan as much as he could, willing to win the match on points, but ready to go for the quick end if the chance offered itself.

Even if he had lost, Pacquiao would have honored his many fans, simply by fighting the good fight. But he went on to avenge last year's loss, and in memorable fashion.

We salute Pacquiao on his decisive win; it is a victory made even more emphatic by the fact that he is the first boxer to knock out Morales, a three-time world champion. Now his triumph will be appropriated by everyone with a point to make or a product to sell; everyone will find in this bounce-back-from-defeat classic a metaphor to suit any need.

The question is: Will we in fact learn the right lessons?

Much will be made of Pacquiao's fighting spirit, especially because he was also on the receiving end of some staggering blows from Morales, a peerless counterpuncher. But this second fight proves that, to stay at the top, heart is not enough. One needs the yoke of discipline. One needs to submit to the sometimes harsh requisites of training, the repetitive instructions of the coach, the unforgiving timetables of conditioning.

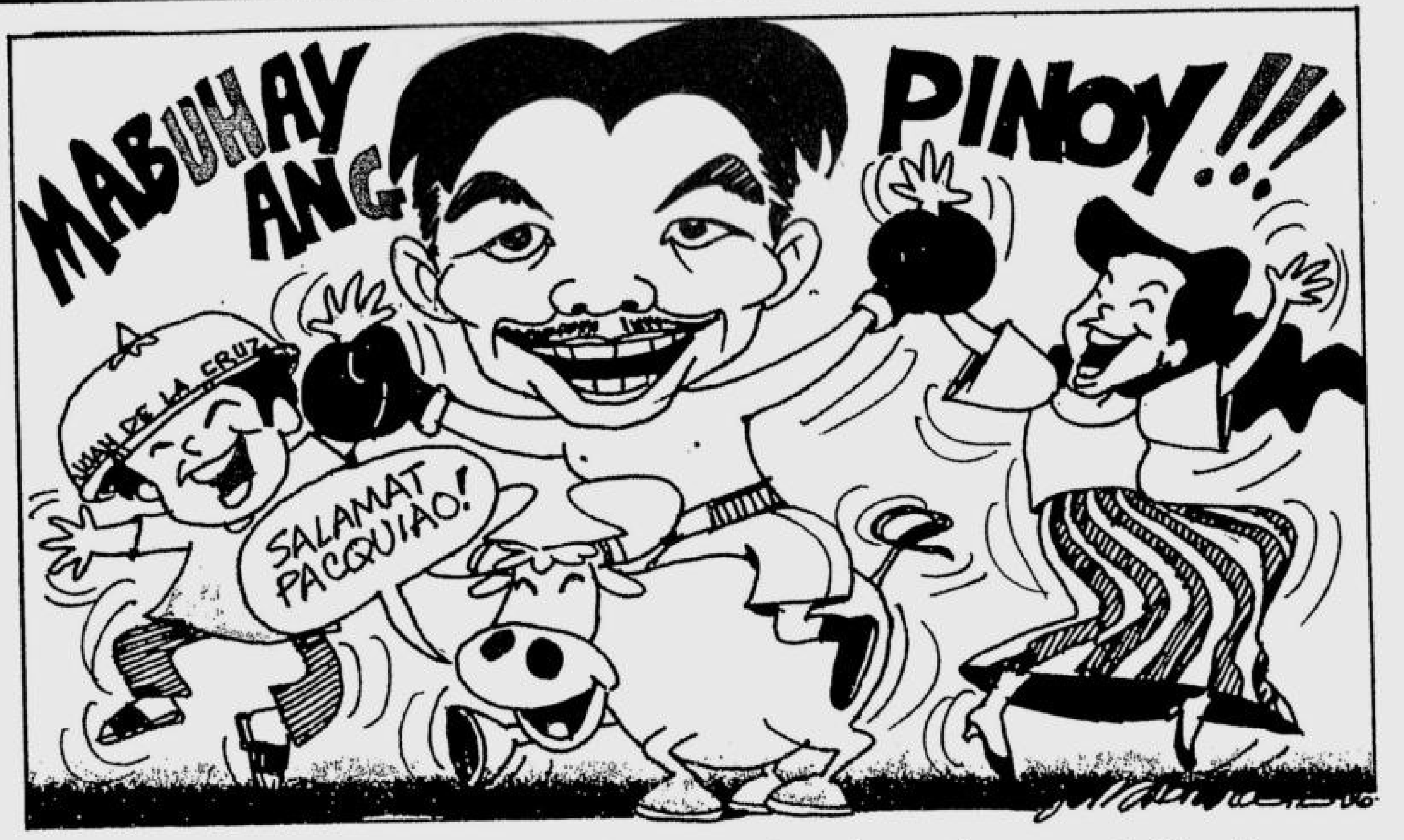
Pacquiao started training in Los Angeles in mid-December; he spent his birthday and the Christmas holidays in training camp. That kind of dedication helps explain why he did not lose wind even in the last rounds of the fight.

Much will also be made of Pacquiao's power punches, and the fact that this time around he wore the thinner Cleto Reyes gloves. But this second fight proved that, to beat the best in the world, it is not enough to rely on one's instincts or natural gifts, or to depend on the improvisational ability the Filipino is famous for. One needs to craft a plan, and then to stick to that plan.

Morales won the first bout in part because Pacquiao depended too much on his powerful left hand; once Morales figured that out, he was able to dictate the pace of the fight. But in yesterday's fight, Pacquiao finally learned to trust his right (which his coach last year rather prematurely called "Manila Ice"). In the clutch, especially in the early rounds and at the start of the seventh, he could have reverted to his natural stance and become "left-hand happy" all over again (another memorable phrase from his coach). But he stuck to the plan, and in the end wore Morales down.

Much will also be made of Pacquiao's role as a national symbol, of his gift for concentrating national pride in his person. And in fact the public seemed as one yesterday, with millions of Filipinos watching the fight or listening to it. But the second fight also proved that not even an epic bout can erase the divisions that disfigure the nation. For some reason, some Filipinos thought it was funny to circulate false messages about the outcome of the fight, even before it had started. And in movie houses and function rooms that broadcast the fight live, audiences tittered when they suddenly saw Ilocos Sur Gov. Chavit Singson appear in the ring, and groaned when they saw First Gentleman Mike Arroyo loom beside Pacquiao.

Boxing is both an impossibly demanding sport and a sportswriter's "sweet science." It is not, however, a substitute for politics; it is not a means of political dispute resolution. If anything, a fight like yesterday's was only a respite from politics. So a word to the wise: Beware of politicians or political wannabes who seek to make political capital out of (or draw the wrong lessons from) Pacquiao's stirring victory. They only cheapen it.


MABUHAY ANG PINOY!!!
JUAN DE LA CRUZ
SALAMAT PACQUIAO!

Are gov't men being bribed with pay hike?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

WHEN CONTEMPORARY PHILIPPINES BEcomes history, the administration of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will be remembered for its principal policy—bribery. To get what she wants, she resorts to buying people. Money is no object because she is not spending her own money anyway but that of the taxpayers.

The latest group of people she is bribing is the government employees. She announced at Plaza Miranda a few days ago that she would allocate P13.1 billion (that's billion) for increases in the salaries of all government officials and employees.

Where would the money come from? I thought the government is bankrupt, that is why it is increasing taxes again.

Malacañang said it will come from "savings" (Savings? Why can't the government pay its obligations if it has savings?) and—get this—from the taxes to be collected when the expanded value-added tax (EVAT) is raised to 12 percent next month. The money has not been collected yet, but Ate Glue is already spending it.

The money has not even been appropriated yet. The P1.05 trillion budget (that's in trillion, the biggest in Philippine history; Filipinos can't even fathom how much is P1 trillion) has not yet been passed but that's no problem for Ate Glue.

A separate appropriations bill for P13.1 billion for the salary increases has already been filed in the House of Representatives. And House members want to pass the pay hikes even ahead of the regular budget.

Why is Ate Glue in such a hurry? Because her popularity rating is still plunging, and at the rate it is going down, it may soon come out at the other side of the earth. Because she wants to save herself from being kicked out of Malacañang.

Yes, she is bribing government personnel to cling to power. She is trying to buy their support and loyalty.

Government employees are not the only ones she is bribing. They are only the latest. Before them, there were the Comelec officials to make sure she won in the 2004 elections; there were the military officers who helped them; there were the administration congressmen to make sure she was proclaimed winner and, later, to block the impeachment case against her; there were the witnesses in the congressional investigations who perjured themselves to contradict damning testimony and evidence linking the First Family to various scandals; and—always and as regularly as the sun rises and sets—there were the corrupt legislators kept in line by the pork barrel.

And because they are the main supporters of President Estrada (the man from whom she stole her first presidency) and of Fernando Poe Jr. (the candidate from whom she stole the presidency for a second term), she is bribing the poor with P3 billion worth of food handouts. Not only did she "rob" (read: deprive) the poor of their two rightful presidents, she would turn them into beggars.

I suggested in an earlier column that, instead of spending the money for food handouts that would last only a few days, the government better use it to generate more jobs. The poor, I said, would prefer jobs more than the handouts that rob them of their dignity. Give them jobs; don't make them beggars.

Three billion pesos for food handouts. That's a lot of money. Add the amount to the P13.1 billion for salary increases, that will make for P16.1 billion in all! A president would have to be pretty stupid not to be able to generate jobs with that much money. How many factories would that much money capitalize? How many new jobs would that create?

Of course, government employees will want to get their salary increases first. But they should think of the millions of other Filipinos who have nothing to feed their families because they have no jobs. Yes, government employees are not being paid enough, but at least they have jobs from which they regularly earn a little. A little is better than nothing, which is all that a greater part of our population has. Twice a month, or every week, government employees go home with their regular pay, but think of our unfortunate countrymen who walk the streets every day looking for work but go home each day tired and hungry, but with nothing for their families.

Why do Filipinos have to leave their families to work in other countries, suffer loneliness, indignities and sometimes death at the hands of their foreign employers? Because there are no jobs for them at home. The government is happy that they are working abroad and sending home the precious foreign currencies that they earn. But think of the social and family repercussions that the workers and their families have to suffer because of long separation. Many families have been wrecked because of that.

Perhaps, the President should take time to think about all these instead of going all over the country to deliver speeches, cutting ribbons and shaking hands with people, as if she were still campaigning for election. *Tapos na po ang boksing, at kayo ang nasa* Malacañang *kahit na may duda na kayo ang nanalo.*

After all, what does she accomplish by way of good governance with all these travels and handshaking? Nothing much, not even in raising her popularity rating—which is the real purpose of all these trips. So *tama na, sobra na!* They don't help her, even with the millions of pesos being spent for those travels. Remember that every time she goes abroad or to the province, she has to take with her an army of *alalays*, security people, government officials, employees and hangers-on, all of whom are spending the people's money like it's nobody's business.

She wants to be popular again? All she has to do is to stop lying, stop buying people and do only what is right. If only she will step down, her popularity rating will immediately shoot up.

Lying

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

LOCAL MEDIA CARRIED AN INTERESTING item late last week. A Gallup Poll International survey called "The Voice of the People" said most people in the world think politicians are dishonest, have too much power and are easily swayed. The survey interviewed 50,000 people in 60 countries. The respondents had a better regard for business leaders, but only in relation to politicians—61 percent said politicians were dishonest; only 43 percent said so of business leaders.

In fact, there is nothing new in that survey, which merely reiterates the findings of previous surveys on the same subject. In Britain last year, a couple of weeks before the voters trekked to the polls, a survey by Ginsters showed an all-time distrust of politicians by the public. "Politicians," some of the respondents said—with an almost Filipino weakness for puns—should instead be called "po-lie-ticians." Tony Blair got the dubious honor of being awarded the second biggest liar in history, next only to Jeffrey Archer. He was a worse liar in British eyes than even Richard Nixon and Bill Clinton. The reason for it, of course, was the "dodgy dossier" he regaled the public with to draw Britain into George W. Bush's war.

In November last year, Ipsos-Reid discovered from a survey of randomly selected adult Canadians that nine out of 10 Canadians believed politicians were "likely to lie" when they made statements to the media about important issues. Quite interestingly, also high in the Liars Index were journalists and priests/ministers. Lowest were police officers, doctors and teachers. That might very well be the same results for this country, except for the part about police officers. They will probably come second in our Liars Index, next to politicians.

All this merely confirms fairly scientifically what we already know reasonably intuitively. But my alarm does not lie in these findings, it lies in what conclusions we are deriving from them. Chief of them—as gleaned from the remarks of both "analyst" and man-in-the-street interviewed on TV—are: one, we are no better and no worse than other countries; and, two, *pare-pareho lang sila*, you change one deceitful politician, you get another. Those are fallacious, indeed deceitful, conclusions, and lead only to more apathy and cynicism.

There is lying and there is lying. Some lies are worse than others. Some lies are more harmful than others. True enough, Filipino politicians will probably beat even con men in untrustworthiness in the public eye; they are the first category of people that Filipinos are least likely to believe. That was so even before martial law. But the lies candidates peddled then, during campaigns in particular, were infinitely more benign than the lies Ferdinand Marcos peddled when he scrapped elections altogether. The lies peddled by the previous presidents after 1986 were infinitely more benign than the lies peddled by the non-President GMA after 2004.

Indeed, there is a difference between the lying as a whole then and the lying as a whole now. Not least, people then bothered not to get caught. Even Marcos did, refusing to say categorically he was going to step down after 1973 as he was constitutionally bound to do. That, for the benefit of the martial law babies, was one of the things that sparked the First Quarter Storm, the confrontation between Marcos and a group of students led by Edgar Jopson, the latter demanding he put down in writing he would not seek power after 1973. Marcos got furious that a "grocer's son," as he called Jopson, would make any demands on him. He forgot what kind of a son he was.

Today, that would be no problem. A group of kids asks GMA to swear off ever running again, and she'll do it. She did it before. It's as Mark Twain said about quitting smoking, "It's easy, I've done it so many times." That is a monumental difference. People then took care not to be caught lying because it carried with it public scorn. People now do not mind lying brazenly because, at the very least, they can always say it is a "lapse in judgment" and at the very most "I lied-so what?"

The implication of "*pare-pareho lang sila*," of course, is that it is useless to remove GMA because things are not going to change. That was what Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales said last year—removing GMA won't solve everything—to which I took vigorous exception. I said then, and I say now, removing GMA won't solve everything but it sure as hell will solve a great many things. Not the least of it is that it will remove a squatter in Malacañang, which should restore justice, morality and a sense of right and wrong to this country. It is the worst form of lying to steal the vote, call it a "lapse in judgment," and talk of reforming politics. It is the worst form of deceitfulness to commit a crime, call it a noncrime, and punish oneself with more power.

Not all politicians are the same. Not all politicians are Marcos and GMA. At the very least, not all of them are capable of this scale of lying. At the very most, some of them are completely honest and decent persons. Unfortunately they are the ones who are dying early. You may accuse Fernando Poe Jr. of many things, but you may not accuse him of lying. You may accuse Raul Roco of many things, but you may not accuse him of rottenness. Among the living, there is Jovito Salonga, ironically the one person thought to be old and decrepit but who has outlived everyone and remains physically and mentally vibrant. And honest. He is to GMA as the crucifix is to Dracula.

It's true: As a general category, politicians are untrustworthy. But some are more untrustworthy than others. The point is to not let their tribe increase. Saying they're all the same is giving them fertility pills.

Doable Charter change

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

I HAD STARTED WRITING MY COMMENTS ON the output of the Consultative Commission when news on the rejection of the report by a House Committee came out. That was P10 million down the drain. The House Committee relegated the ConCom proposal to the status of reference material—a delicate act of courtesy but also a mild rebuff of the convenor of the ConCom.

Actually, if the report were to be debated on the floor of the House, it could be an embarrassment for the Arroyo administration. Indeed, the ConCom's draft comes out shorter than the 1987 Constitution which was much criticized for its verbosity. The draft is shorter by something like 5,000 words. But is that a virtue? I would say that, if the 1986 Constitutional Commission itself had shortened the 1986 Constitution, it would have been a virtue. So much surplusage would have been eliminated. But the shortening proposed by the advisory ConCom, done through deletions left and right, raises certain intriguing questions. How so?

When a provision in a law, or even just a concept, is deleted, the message that is sent is that the deletion is a rejection of the provision or of the concept. Indeed, that may not be the intention of the author of the deletion; but when the time comes for the application of the law, one can never tell how the executive officer will interpret the deletion.

Let us take the Preamble. The Preamble of a Constitution is a distillation of the beliefs and aspirations of the people. Although it is not by itself a source of rights, it can serve as a guide to the interpretation of the other provisions of the Constitution. Hence, it should be meticulously formulated. It seems to me that the deletions made by the ConCom were not done with meticulous care and can lead to rather disturbing conclusions.

Let me just cite one example. The 1987 Preamble says that the people, by writing a Constitution, seek to secure to themselves and their posterity the blessings of "the rule of law and a regime of truth, etc." The ConCom's proposed Preamble has omitted both "the rule of law" and "truth." One thus gets the impression that the draft is not particularly keen about protecting the "rule of law" and seeking "truth." When you see that in the context of what the present administration has been doing, for instance, through the gag rule in EO 464, you might conclude that the real authorship of these provisions belongs to the person who convoked the ConCom.

But let us lay the ConCom report to rest and discuss instead a more substantial matter. At the moment, the overwhelming view outside the leadership of the House of Representatives and Malacañang, and even within the ConCom, is that the Senate may not be excluded from the process of revising or amending the Constitution. One concrete meaning of this is that the Senate is not obliged to accept the invitation of the House to come to a joint session for the purpose of proposing amendments. If that be the case, is the proposal of amendments at all possible outside of a joint session?

The power to legislate is given to Congress. But the Constitution does not call Congress to a joint session for the purpose of legislating. Hence, the two houses perform their respective legislative functions as they are, where they are.

The power to propose amendments is likewise given to Congress but neither does the Constitution require the two houses to come in joint session, as it did under the 1935 Constitution. Hence, it is quiet possible for the two houses to formulate amendments the way they formulate laws—as they are where they are. Once one house is through with a draft, the draft is passed on to the other house for action.

Since the House is so gung-ho about Charter change, it might start the ball rolling. At this stage, it is now clearly unrealistic for the House to try to lure the Senate to a total revision of the Constitution. The House might want to start with humbler and doable beginnings by formulating relatively isolated changes.

One possible beginning is an overhaul of the Commission on Elections. From our experience in the recent elections, there has arisen a nigh universal cry for the overhaul of the Comelec. There is a strong public desire to have the membership of the Comelec changed. But the current members are firmly entrenched because they are removable only by the impossible process of impeachment. Thus, nothing short of a constitutional change can achieve a Comelec reorganization. Should the House succeed in restructuring the Comelec in terms of membership and powers, together with changes in some of the constitutional provisions on the electoral process, it may not be easy for the Senate to refuse to participate in such an exercise.

There is no question that the electoral process needs overhauling. Central to the problem is the Comelec. Beyond the Comelec, there are also isolated provisions in the Constitution which have a great effect on the electoral process. If these can be attended to little by little, together with a thorough review of the statutory provisions on elections, the benefit that will be reaped can prepare the nation for a more credible process of Charter change.

Valuing Catholicism

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II

A DELAYED REACTION THIS IS. LAST WEEK, MY immediate superior in the workplace lent me his copy of the film "The Exorcism of Emily Rose." I had not watched this movie until then, but I did recall the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines publicly recommending it late last year, except that the endorsement was drowned out in the din of the political infighting going on among our ruling elite who, by the way, all claim to be saints.

If you think that the movie is a sequel to the "The Exorcist," William Peter Blatty's unforgettable box-office hit some years back, it is not. Emily Rose, I should say, is a much more powerful movie. But it does not dwell too much on gory demonic possession scenes, deviating from a trend that used to characterize films of the same genre. Its simple message is one that confronts what is rather an increasingly disconcerting subject to many people today—faith in God.

Let's face it. Our disbelieving generation no longer believes in demons.

The film is based on a true-to-life story. Emily Rose was a 19-year-old freshman who grew up in a devout Catholic family. The ordeal she experienced with six demons who possessed her began one quiet night in the college dorm where she was staying for university studies. She was not the type who would indulge in drugs; she was never into hallucinogens. She actually lived a clean life as a young Catholic girl who was not ashamed to practice her faith.

She had been weakened by the vicious, demonic attacks that incessantly haunted her when the family finally decided to bring her home and seek the counsel of Fr. Richard Moore. The priest knew the gravity of his parishioner's condition. His first response was to make a thorough review of the Roman Catholic manual that prescribes the rites of exorcism. As the days went by, the demonic attacks became more frequent, persistent and even more ferocious. Unknown to the priest, Emily Rose had been attended to by a school neurologist, and then by a psychiatrist, who both treated her as afflicted with a "rare" case of epilepsy that "degenerated" into psychosis. In truth, the drug she was administered with only served to narcotize her brain and contributed to her aggravation, which eventually killed her. Father Moore insisted that the case was spiritual, not scientific. The state blamed Emily Rose's death on the priest and charged him with "negligent homicide."

The riveting trial scenes that follow play on our minds in many ways. A lawyer known for being a "man of faith" represents the prosecution. On the other hand, Father Moore is represented by a woman lawyer who openly admits she is agnostic. ("Aren't we all?" she says.)

The binary opposites seem to recall our own real-life struggles between science and faith. Science gives us the facts. Inversely, faith is seen as only a realm of possibilities, which dismisses demonic possession and exorcism as "archaic, irrational superstition." The prosecution lawyer often sneers at the priest for his "medieval" thinking. Even the priest's own archdiocese refuses to be dragged into the case, for fear of being labeled as "medieval."

A dramatic point of the movie comes with the testimony of an expert witness for the defense, an anthropologist who is an authority on the cross-cultural phenomenon of demonic possession. Although rare, "demonic possession is a cultural universal," she testifies.

Being an anthropologist myself, I easily identified with her testimony. Despite our fixation on modernity, anthropology continues to be perceived as an "exotic" discipline, driven only by "unscientific thought and non-statistical data," in a silly world that has made a god out of numbers—numbers that do not have faces, let alone feelings.

"Emily Rose" has other more important parallels. Father Moore's charity and dedication, his fealty to Church doctrine, above all his heroic faith in the face of persecution, only bring to mind the quality of many of our Catholic presbyters. Would that our parish priests of today be of the same cut as Father Moore. Many of our parish priests behave like little mayors and are consumed by the temporal powers of their office. It is no secret that many are driven by ambitions to become bishops. Humility no longer seems to be the mark of many of them. Perhaps, a good number of them no longer profess loyalty to the Pope. I would like to think that many of our priests today are the ones who are pushing us to our very own "faithlessness."

On the eve of her death, Emily Rose went through an out-of-body experience where she was favored with an apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary. When she asked her why she was being made to suffer a terrible ordeal, Mary told her that God allowed her trial to show the power of good over evil. She was made to choose between leaving her earthly life or going back to her body and accept the divine purpose that her fate had been irreconcilably assigned to; nobody believed in demons anymore; her role was to bring our faith back to its senses. She chose to go back. The next day, God took away her life.

"I would like to believe that she was a saint," Father Moore says at the trial. Today, the many who visit Emily Rose's grave do not miss out the epitaph that she had personally chosen: "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."

I am not trying to stand tall, but the fact is, many of us refuse to admit we are sinners.

* * *

Comments to monta@cu-cdo.edu.ph

Our Constitutions, past and present

(Conclusion)

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

JOSE V. ABUEVA IN THE PHILIPPINE STARWEEK of Oct. 15, 1995, was quoted thus: "If we carefully examine its wide scope, depth and complexity, we would see the Constitution as mandating not only development but also transformation, no less than the building of a free, prosperous egalitarian, just and humane society through a dynamic political, economic, social and cultural democracy." Flowery words for a point of view that lasted barely a decade!

One option for the new government, which was dear to the hearts of many of those who had been active in public life before martial law, was the restoration of the 1935 Constitution. There was much going for the view that held that the 1973 Charter, which had been railroaded through a cowed and bribed convention, was never properly ratified. The implication of this was that the 1935 Constitution never ceased to operate. But practical problems faced the new government. First, according to Nemenzo, "All the institutions it had established had been dissolved." To restore the whole machinery of government in a constitutionally ordained way, Cory Aquino might have to run in another presidential election. This brought up frightening possibilities: at a time when stability was just beginning to be restored, another massive political exercise would involve the risk of having the yet-undismantled KBL machinery heave into action and make up for the debacle of February. No doubt, Marcos would pull out all stops, and might actually pull off a victory, aided by the forces that had clearly realized they were done for in the new regime. Cory refused to consider holding another presidential election, and the 1935 option was closed forever.

Once the 1935 option was out, two groups of advisers provided—and advocated—different constitutional plans for President Aquino to choose from. A group, composed of Justice Cecilia Muñoz Palma, Marcelo Fernan and Homobono Adaza advocated the continuation of the 1973 Charter. On the other side were Fr. Joaquin Bernas, the consistently anti-Marcos Neptali Gonzales (then minister of justice) and what Nemenzo calls "the Left-of-corner" advisers.

The views of Justice Palma are quoted by Nemenzo: "The KBL members of parliament should be given the benefit of the doubt. The President should invest a little more faith. . . we are bringing into the reformed society the subversives, the CPP, the radicals. . . so why can't we bring in the pro-Marcos groups. . .even if they are 'bad'? Nobody is beyond reform." Pointing out that, for all its flaws, the 1973 Constitution at least existed and could be used, the group advocated its adoption—at least on a transitional basis. After all, the snap election had been held under that Constitution, and under it the president of the Philippines could only be proclaimed by the Batasang Pambansa. Why not correct the injustice that took place when the KBL-dominated assembly proclaimed Marcos? All the Batasan had to do was reconvene, revoke its previous proclamation of Marcos and pass a law granting Cory extraordinary powers to reform the government and (just in case), dissolve the Batasan if it got too obstreperous. After all, after Marcos fled, 46 KBL MPs defected to the Cory camp, "swelling its ranks" from 59 to 105. Then the Constitution could be purged of its totalitarian aspects. No dice, said Cory. The idea of deriving her legitimacy from Marcos' parliament and placing the new government under the Constitution Marcos had promulgated to legitimize his dictatorship and its abuses was simply too offensive.

Nemenzo also writes that the proposed formula would have made her "a hostage to the cluster of turncoats around Enrile." The argument made by Father Bernas and company was more attractive. Nemenzo summarized this view as the belief that "her power was derived from a popular revolution and not based on the 1973 Constitution. A clean break with the vestiges of the fallen dictatorship and all its laws and institutions required no constitutional justification."

It took her a few weeks to make up her mind. On March 25, 1986, "instead of proclaiming a revolutionary government, she declared the government to be constitutional while promulgating her own 'Freedom Constitution.'" It retained the Bill of Rights and selected portions of the 1973 Charter, vested the President with legislative powers, "until a legislature is elected and convened under a new Constitution. It authorized the President to appoint a Constitutional Commission (Con-Com)." A marvelous case of a "confluence of events" resulted in the fulfillment of an important aspiration of the opposition.

Soon, after being appointed on June 2, 1986, the Con-Com went to work, under the presidency of Justice Palma, who worked together with commissioners such as Father Bernas. Despite the noise made by indignant people like Juan Ponce Enrile who had pinned their hopes on the old system, and the best efforts of cantankerous Marcos loyalists who occupied the Manila Hotel in July, the Con-Com finished its work. The new Constitution was signed on Oct. 15, and ratified on Feb. 2, 1987.

In David Wurfel's estimation. "The basic law is probably close to what it would have been, had the Constitutional Convention of 1971 been able to complete its work without the imposition of authoritarian rule." In a way, things have come full circle. The idealism of some members of the Con-Com, which had provided some hope to an apparently disintegrating society and its government, found fulfillment, after a long interlude of repression.

Then again, it seems that the Constitution now is the problem.

* * *

Comments welcome at www.quezon.ph/blog

Politics in education

COMMENTARY

Juan Miguel Luz

SIX MONTHS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE RESIGNATION OF Secretary Florencio "Butch" Abad and, to no one's surprise, the Department of Education hasn't collapsed and neither is it in danger of falling apart.

All the media hype about the DepEd in paralysis because it is "headless" (it is at present run just by an "acting" secretary) is exactly that—media hype. The fact that the DepEd has managed well with no major scandals or disruptions attests to something the President and the general public might as well begin to realize: There is a professional bureaucracy that can make things happen in this country if only it is not touched by political meddling. At least, this is what happens in other high-performing countries with a professional civil service. Ministers come and go but a professional civil service, run by competent public managers, makes sure that essential services (including public schools) deliver what needs to be delivered to constituents.

Since the Edsa Revolution in 1986, the DepEd has been run by 10 secretaries over a 19-year period, meaning an average of less than two-year stint per secretary. Contrast this to the complete budget cycle of the education system—from planning to actual start of implementation (i.e., the school year)—which is 24 months, and you realize that a secretary with "a new vision" wouldn't even see new programs being fully implemented. This explains why education in this country has failed to deliver. It isn't about a lack of vision. It's about the lack of action, implementation and follow-through. Like all things Filipino, we have too much "vision" (i.e., great plans) but little else to show by way of accomplishment.

In the last three years, the DepEd's professional bureaucracy has put in place reforms in academics, personnel, finance and administration, and teacher welfare. In the field of academics, these include: the revised basic education curriculum (BEC); the new textbook policy (to improve on the quality of textbooks in all subjects); the Every Child a Reader (by Grade Three) literacy and proficiency programs; the new grading system; the new testing system; the Madaris education (for Muslim Filipino children); and the upgrading of science and math education.

On personnel, the reforms have been most pronounced in teacher welfare, teacher hiring and teacher training, especially in English proficiency, science and math. We have worked very hard to address teacher shortage all over the country by hiring the right types and by re-allocating positions from areas with surplus teachers (yes, there are divisions with more teachers than required) to areas where there are marked shortages.

On finance and administration, the DepEd has decentralized payroll servicing to all regions (even as politicians like to claim credit for something they have no hand in); made funds flow directly to schools and divisions (no longer passing through the central or regional offices, which only add to the red tape); increased school-maintenance and other operating funds for three successive years; cleaned up private lending to teachers that use the automatic payroll deduction scheme; and made more transparent and professional the entire procurement system of the DepEd from the central office down to the division level (recognized as "best practice" by the Government Policy Procurement Board and the World Bank). These reforms are now in place. As a result, the last three SWS enterprise surveys have shown that the DepEd is seen as one of the cleanest agencies.

Yes, the public school system delivers, even as teachers work with great handicaps, even without salary increases in the past five years and in difficult work conditions; and even though no education secretary with full authority has been appointed.

So why the anxiety over not having an appointed education secretary? Such concern is misplaced.

Two politician candidates are anxious to be appointed education secretary. (What is so important about appointing a politician to head the DepEd anyway?) No doubt, both stand to gain from an appointment for themselves more than the DepEd would gain from their expertise. Either of them would want to leave their own "legacy" on the education system and would bring in their own vision as if educators have none. And if the chosen one wouldn't stay long, his vision wouldn't be realized.

The Philippine Public School Teachers Association (PPSTA), the largest teachers organization, has weighed in heavily behind one candidate. Did media know that the PPSTA is now a financially bankrupt organization despite the fact that it has collected millions in dues from teachers for decades? It is now under the receivership of the Insurance Commission, which is seriously looking into the possibility of filing graft charges against its officers and board members. You have to wonder if the endorsement is a political move intended to save PPSTA's officers.

The concern of some 1,000 DepEd central office employees about the lack of a leader is equally baseless. As long as the more than 500,000 teachers, principals, supervisors, superintendents and directors in the field are focused on delivering education services in our 42,000 public schools. The DepEd union should focus more on supporting the teachers and less on deal-making.

It's time to be frank and honest about why we, as a country, have failed our children. The fault lies in traditional, patronage politics. If this evil is allowed to prevail, then nothing will improve in this forsaken country of ours. And no politician or political leader should lament how poorly educated our children are because all they do is undermine the efforts of the professionals who are working very hard to make education work in this country.

Over the past six months, DepEd employees have been saying that the system needs to be run by a professional educator. We have a unique opportunity now to stand behind Acting Secretary Fe Hidalgo, who herself rose from the DepEd ranks, first as a classroom teacher and successfully as principal, supervisor, director, assistant secretary, undersecretary and now acting secretary. Hidalgo, if appointed by the President, would be the first public school teacher to have risen to the highest post of the education department. The message to all our teachers would be clear and unequivocal: Teachers matter and quality education, in their hands, matters most of all.

But sadly, Hidalgo can offer the President nothing that the latter needs in the political game—unlike the two politician candidates.

If public education is as poor as it is today, the President has no one to blame but herself. Unfortunately, we will pay for her mistake for many years to come. And that vision about a "strong republic" would be nothing more than a lot of sound and fury signifying nothing.

Juan Miguel Luz is an undersecretary (on leave) of the Department of Education.

Preposterous blindness

PHILIPPINE DAILY LETTERS INQUIRER

IT WAS IN UTTER DISBELIEF THAT I read about National Economic and Development Authority Director General Augusto Santos saying he "cannot find the poorest of the poor." (PDI, 1/10/05) According to him, "grinding poverty is not easy to pinpoint." I beg to disagree.

Quezon City, for example, has a map of every depressed area. In our own experience, which includes giving free prescription eyeglasses in Camarin D Elementary School, Caloocan City, and other schools in Payatas and Bagong Silangan in Quezon City, we have seen and come to know where the poorest of the poor are. We have seen and come to know that the incidence of elementary students needing prescription eyeglasses is 50 percent. Why? What's the problem? Lack of vitamin A and malnutrition.

Children are not supposed to need prescription eyeglasses. At one time, an 11-year-old boy fainted in front of me. When he came to, he apologized and said it was because it was Thursday and he was the member of his family who didn't eat on Thursdays!

If the Neda chief is truly serious about finding the poorest of the poor, I am volunteering to meet him, say, at Camarin D Elementary School in Caloocan City. There are 6,600 children there, crammed into a small school operating in three shifts of classes starting at 5:30 a.m. I will show Director Santos thousands of malnourished kids who come to school hungry; fourth graders who look like first graders. I don't blame Neda for carefully giving out precious food, but to say the poorest of the poor can't be found is preposterous.

—LEW EDWARDS,
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With cheating, we can never be a great nation

READING THE LETTER OF ANTON Sy (PDI, 12/19/05) added to my frustration. I was frustrated to find another Filipino who likes to be on the sidelines watching our dear country retrogress. I can't blame him because he's a "Filipino."

But I think we owe it to Conrado de Quiros and his writings that we still have countrymen who risk getting the ire of those in power. If De Quiros portrays our country as one going to the dogs, that's only the sad reality, and we should be men enough to accept that and to wake up from our deep slumber (read: apathy).

If no one among us would dare to call a spade a spade, then we would really be a pathetic race. Imagine yourself in my place, being questioned by foreigners about how we, as a people, could keep silent in the face of election cheating. You'd surely feel the way I felt: so small, unable to refute or just answer the notion that, maybe, most Filipino politicians are cheaters and Filipinos do nothing about the cheating being done in their midst.

We can never be a great nation for as long as we allow cheating to be part of our system. I may not agree with Sy, but I surely will defend his right to say what he wants to say. Maybe, he can say the same thing about De Quiros.

—JONATHAN CABAL,
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Dancing the Cha-cha with the devil

I READ WITH KEEN INTEREST CONRADO DE Quiros' Dec. 27 column. He advised *balikbayans* to forget the suggestion for the country to shift to the parliamentary system of government. The crux of the problem, he argued, is that we have an illegitimate President and nothing else can be a rational sequence to that. To illustrate his point, he said that if you catch a student cheating in an exam, you expel him. He then proceeded to describe those who don't agree with him as simply stupid and brainless. Ironically, his reasons against the parliamentary system made me abandon all hopes for the presidential system that we nurtured since we gained independence from Spain.

De Quiros said in developed countries, like Japan and Germany, switching political parties would be considered treason because parties in those countries stand for an ideological cause or political philosophy. I agree that the Filipino politicians' habit of shamelessly changing parties during elections is repugnant, to say the least.

I have followed closely the conduct of Canadian politicians during elections. The present administration, run by the Liberal Party of Prime Minister Paul Martin, coalesced with other parties to form a minority government. The opposition Conservative Party, led by Stephen Harper, tried to force an early election last May by trying to outvote the Liberals in passing its proposed national budget. The Conservatives thought they had the numbers but, to their shock and dismay, Belinda Stronanch, a shining star of the party, joined the Liberals, tilting the balance in favor of the minority government.

Fellow Conservatives, bitter with her act, called her a "whore." Stronanch, who used to be a leading Conservative, is now a Cabinet minister, serving the minority government of the Liberals.

My Canadian friends complain about their own politicians as immoral, queer, irresponsible and yes, corrupt. But, surprisingly, in a random survey conducted by their major newspapers, very few Canadians know they have a federal parliamentary election on Jan. 23, 2006.

Canadians are not obsessed with politics the way we Filipinos treat it as a way of life. During my research fellowship in Germany in the 1990s, the discredited Communist Party deodorized and simply changed its ideological name to join parliamentary elections so it could attract skeptics. So much for De Quiros' "Battle of the Brainless."

Meanwhile, seeing the old and tired faces of the Marcos regime, the failed characters of Edsa II and the opposition party joining forces with CPP head Joma Sison to topple the government, I am opting to stick and dance with the devil I know—GMA's Cha-cha.

—ROLAND Q. ESTRADA,
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GSIS president defends SSS members

THE OVER 25 MILLION SOCIAL SECURITY System members were disgusted when SSS president Corazon dela Paz furtively signed on Dec. 30, 2003 a commitment to sell SSS' 188 million shares in Equitable PCIBank (EPCIB) to Banco de Oro (BDO) at a bargain price of P43.50 each. But for the Philippine Association of Retired Persons (PARP), which petitioned the court to stop the sale, it would have resulted in a P6.5 billion loss for the SSS.

Done without public bidding, it was the second time the SSS members were betrayed by their own president. The first was when Carlos Arellano connived with then President Joseph Estrada (which Arellano admitted) to buy the shares at P97 per share without due diligence and at a huge overprice.

It is ironic that Winston Garcia, president of the Government Service Insurance System, which has only a little over one million members, should be the one to stand up for and protect the interest of SSS members, by appealing to the SSS to join the GSIS in connection with BDO's bid to merge with EPCIB. The SSS' and GSIS' combined holdings of 41 percent of EPCIB's stocks would certainly be able to command a good price. Unless the SSS members are betrayed again for a third time.

In behalf of all SSS members, we salute Garcia, and wish he were also the SSS president.

—AMADO F. CABAERO,
founding chair and past president,
Philippine Association of Retired Persons,
7 Espina Compound, Cebu City

Violent fraternities and clones

THERE WAS AN ARticle in the Jan. 17 issue of the INQUIRER that was deeply revealing of the Filipino personality: "A history of violence," a Young Blood article on fraternities.

We see in the fraternities the conspiratorial mentality of the Filipino who nurtures the delusion that only his clique is good and worthy, while all the others are bad and unworthy of fame and fortune.

The truth is that every "frat member" is an exact mental clone of all the others, no matter what the Greek letters are in the names of their fraternity. There is an element of cruelty in the Filipino which is also expressed in their cabals.

—ROBERT HANAN,
robhanan@
robhanan.com

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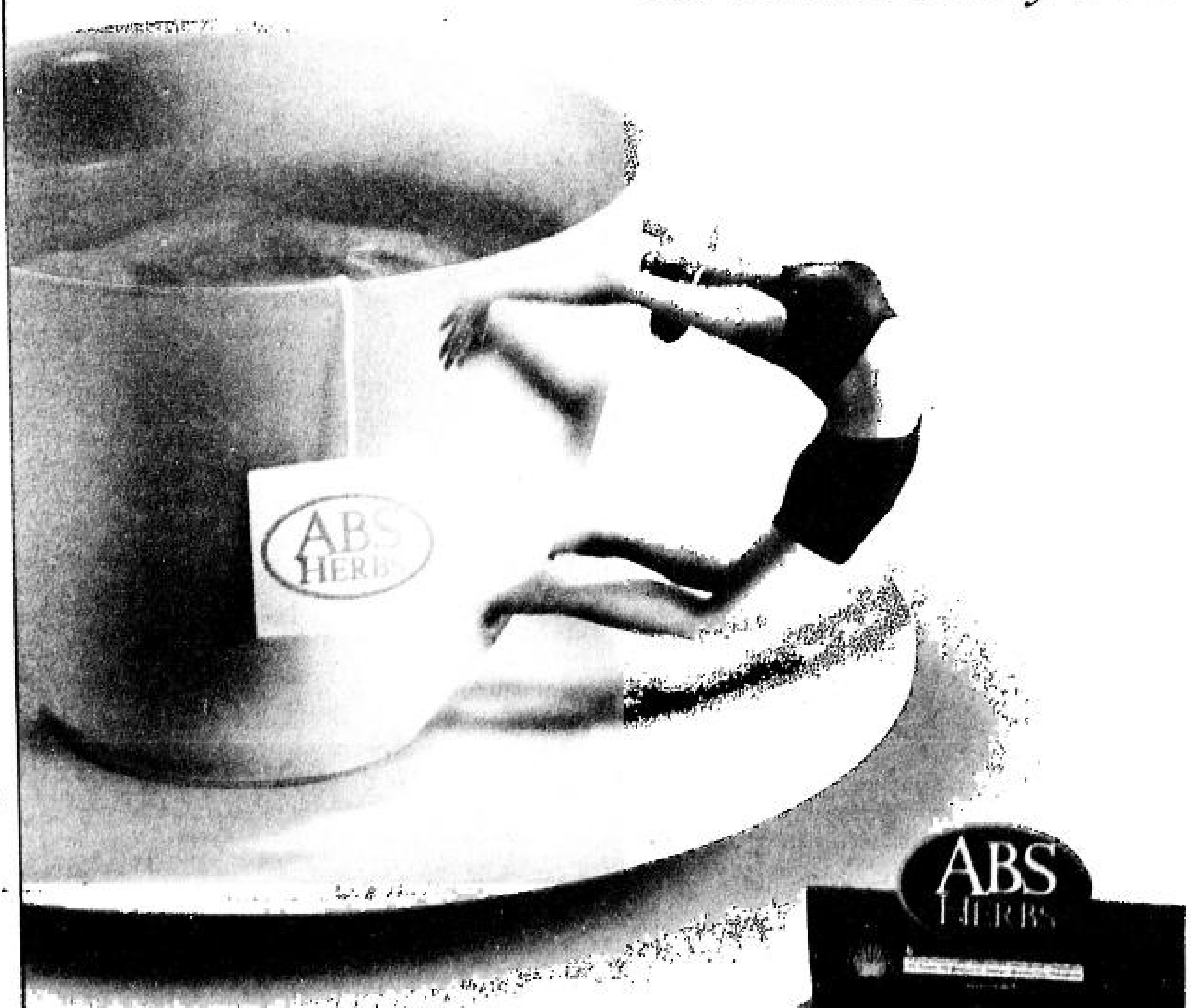

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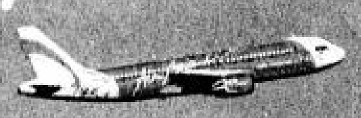

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Casinos to attract more Indian tourists–DOT

DAVAO CITY—CASINOS WILL BE AMONG THE main attractions that the Philippines will package this year to attract more tourists from India, Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano said.

"We'll be going strong on India this year, one of the secondary staple markets we'll try to develop along with Russia. Tourists from India are very keen on gaming," Durano said at the closing program for the 25th Asean Tourism Forum (ATF) here.

The ATF, which ran on Jan. 13-21, was one of the most important events in the Asean region. It aimed at boosting cooperation among member-countries for the tourism industry.

Durano said 57 percent of tourists who visited the Philippines in recent months came from Japan, South Korea and China.

But while South Korea surpassed Japan in tourist arrivals last year, Durano said the country's tourism industry was bullish about India.

"This year, we will be going strong on Russia and India, especially in gaming. I understand that casinos are also about to open in Singapore. But (Singapore Tourism Minister) Vivian (Balakrishnan) said it would take about two years for the operation of casinos there to go full swing," Durano said.

He said that gaming facilities in the Philippines are already in full swing, notably in Manila, Luzon, Cebu and Davao.

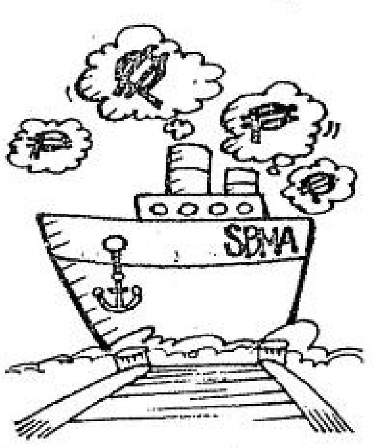
Singapore, which posted close to 9 million tourist arrivals last year, will soon put up at least two integrated resort facilities, featuring gaming as a major come-on.

Mohd Rostam Bin Umar, director of the communications division of the Singapore Tourism Board, said the Singapore government was now accepting proposals for gaming complexes to be set up in the state's Marina Bay and Sentosa Bay.

Durano said the lack of rooms continued to hound the local hotel and resort industry.

Currently, hotels and resorts can only accommodate 3 million people. *Germelina A. Lacorte, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Subic reports ₱3.4-B contribution to treasury



SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—THE Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority contributed P3.4 billion in revenues to the national treasury in 2005.

The amount was derived from tax collections here last year, the SBMA said in a statement.

Yearend reports of collection agencies here showed that the Bureau of Internal Revenue collected P951 million, while the Bureau of Customs posted P2.5 billion.

SBMA Chair Feliciano Salonga, in the same statement, said remittance to the national treasury was 12 percent higher than last year's figure.

"This is really an indication that business activities here are indeed starting to roll again. As we expect more investments to come in this year, hopefully we can contribute more than that to the national government," Salonga said.

SBMA Administrator Armand Arreza said the SBMA was keen on attracting more investors to locate in the Subic freeport to generate more revenues that would support the government's development programs and create more jobs.

Edgar Tolentino, revenue district officer here, said the BIR collection included P903 million in income tax remittances of 59,764 freeport workers and 5,000 employees of the SBMA and its subsidiary Freeport Service Corp., and the 5-percent tax on gross income and withholding taxes from freeport enterprises. *PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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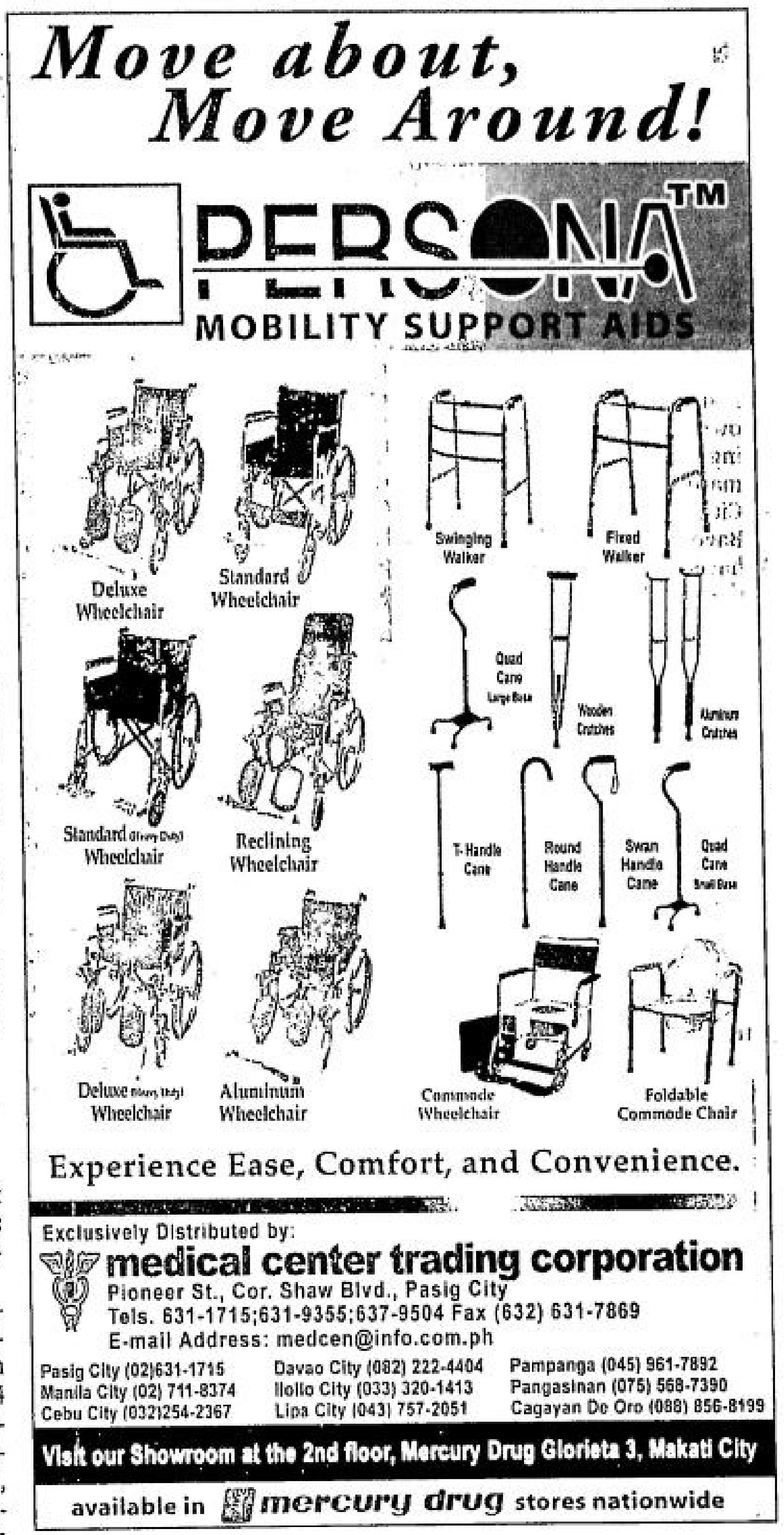
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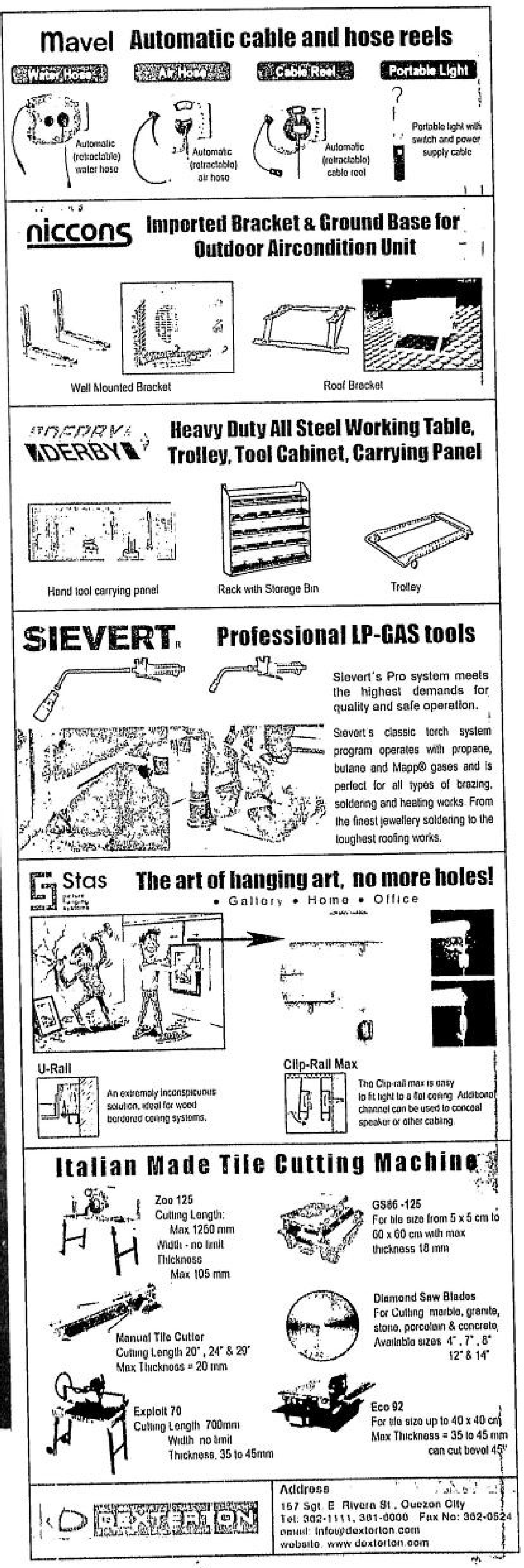
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Charges vs school officials dropped

BAGUIO CITY—THE deputy Ombudsman for Luzon dismissed the graft and estafa complaints filed by the Parents Teachers Community Organization (PTCO) officials in La Trinidad, Benguet, against three officials of the Benguet National High School (BNHS).

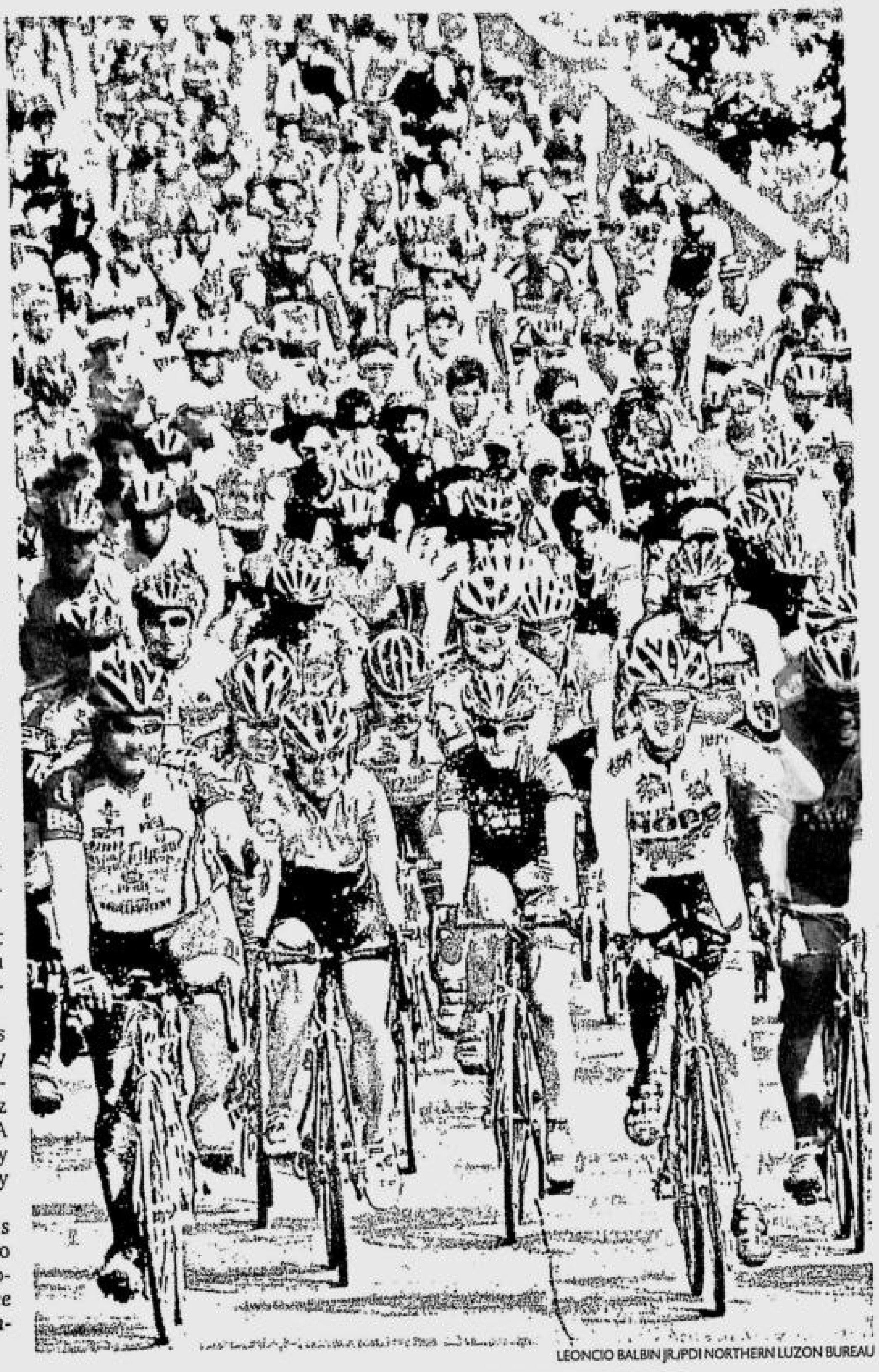
The case stemmed from the collection of P1.3 million from BNHS students, which the PTCO said it did not authorize.

In a resolution, Edwin Balasuit, graft investigation and prosecution officer of the office of the Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon, dismissed the complaint for lack of probable cause.

However, Balasuit noted that his decision was "without prejudice to its re-filing."

The resolution was approved by Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon Victor Fernandez on Dec. 21, 2005. A copy was received by the respondents only last week.

The complaint was filed by Francisco Gonzalo, a PTCO representative. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



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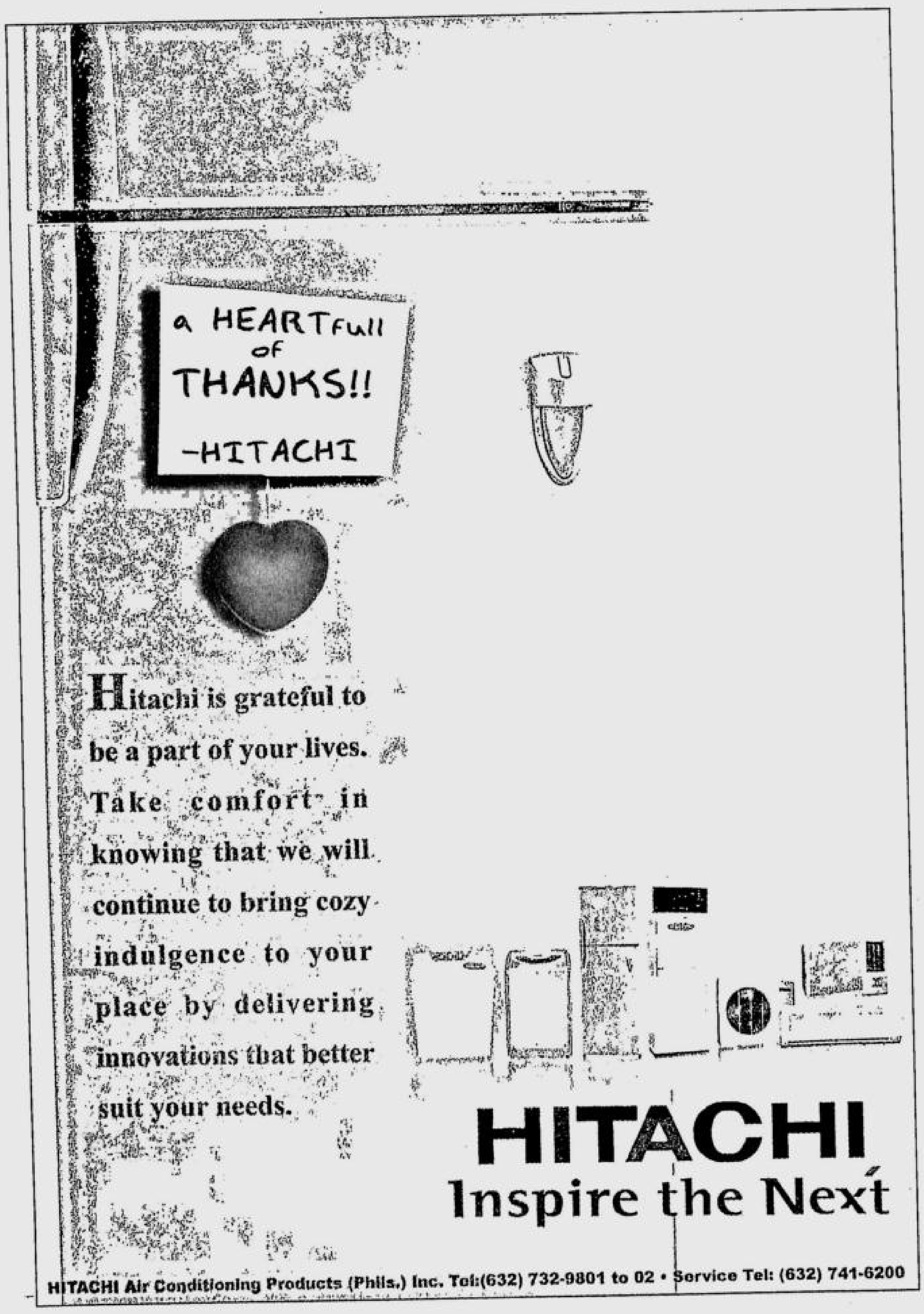
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VFA body seeks hike in budget, workforce

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—THE Presidential Commission on the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFACom) wants its budget and personnel increased by 10 to 17 times despite calls from a legislative oversight committee to end the VFA and abolish the agency.

Zosimo Paredes, VFACom executive director, said the proposal to raise the commission's budget from P2 million to P54 million and its workforce from seven to 117 would be reiterated in its 2005 report to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The VFACom, created in January 2000 by then President Joseph Estrada through Executive Order 199, is the government's watchdog on the war games between the Philippines and the United States.

The proposal for budget and personnel increase was first raised in the VFACom's 2004 report, Paredes said, speaking to the INQUIRER by phone from North Cotabato where he was monitoring preparations for the large-scale Balikatan exercise in February.

"The task is enormous. We can do a lot more with bigger budget and complement," Paredes said.

The creation of the VFACom was in compliance with Resolution 18 through which the Senate ratified the VFA. Its main task, according to the EO, was to ensure compliance with the provisions of the treaty.

The implementation of the provisions of the VFA was criticized following the alleged rape of a Filipino woman by four US Marines at the Subic Bay Freeport on Nov. 1 last year and the refusal of the US Embassy to hand over the accused to Philippine authorities.

The alleged rape was the fifth incident to have happened during or after the military exercises. Earlier cases were the accidental bombing of an island village, the emergency landing of US military planes that damaged a farm, a freak accident during the hauling of equipment (all in Zambales), and the beating of a driver in Cebu.

The VFACom, Paredes said, was up to its task and would be imperiled by the move of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, co-chair of the legislative oversight committee on the VFA (Lovfa), to allot a P1 annual budget to it along with the call for its abolition.

"After (the senator's) tantrum; she approached Sen. (Manuel) Villar (appropriations committee chair) to give that budget and he acceded," Paredes recalled of the Lovfa's last hearing.

He said the P2-million budget, a fixed item in the Executive department's budget, was "measly."

"Travel alone eats the budget," he said.

Paredes said the committee's staff members, four of whom are contractuals, came from agencies that are members of VFACom.

Int'l conference raises RP interest in linguistics

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—THE 10TH International Conference on Austronesian Linguistics (10-Ical) raised the interest of Filipinos in linguistics and language studies, Linguistic Society of the Philippines president Dr. Angela Sarile said.

"The interest of our Filipino participants was more enhanced and strengthened," Sarile said at the close of the conference on Friday, adding:

"They are more interested in having their own research now."

Sarile noted that before, Filipino participants did not give much attention to linguistics. Now, she said, she could see their enthusiasm.

Participants

Sarile said that at the start of the conference, only about 25 percent of the more than 200 participants from over 17 countries were Filipinos. But toward the middle of the meeting, Filipino participation grew to around 30 percent.

The 10-Ical, convened every four years and organized by the Summer Institute of Linguistics, was held for the first time in the country, in cooperation with the LSP.

"When the participants go back to their respective countries, they will be able to embark on probable replication of their research," Sarile said.

SIL president Dr. J. Stephen Quakenbush explained that the conference was not after making policy but more on sharing research studies.

A total of 160 researches were presented in the four-day conference.

Quakenbush also explained that Austronesian basically meant a composition of different languages.

"Austronesian means southern island so it means the languages of the South Pacific and in this general part of the world. This is the largest language family in the world geographically speaking and in terms of numbers and this is actually the second language family in the world. So all the indigenous languages in the Philippines are part of the Austronesian language family," he said.

Quakenbush, who has been a frequent Palawan visitor, said the conference was able to bring together scholars from around the world.

Venue

"Everybody's telling me how much they enjoyed the venue. Being in Palawan is so wonderful, the city of Puerto Princesa couldn't have given us a better welcome. Everyone was really impressed with how Puerto Princesa rose to the fore and provided a terrific welcome" he said.

Annette Ward, a member of the LSP board, said the venue was one of the reasons for the increase in the number of participants.

"I think the attraction was when we said that we were going to have a conference in the Philippines and not in Manila but in Puerto Princesa and I think that was a come-on for most of the people," she said. *Geraldford P. Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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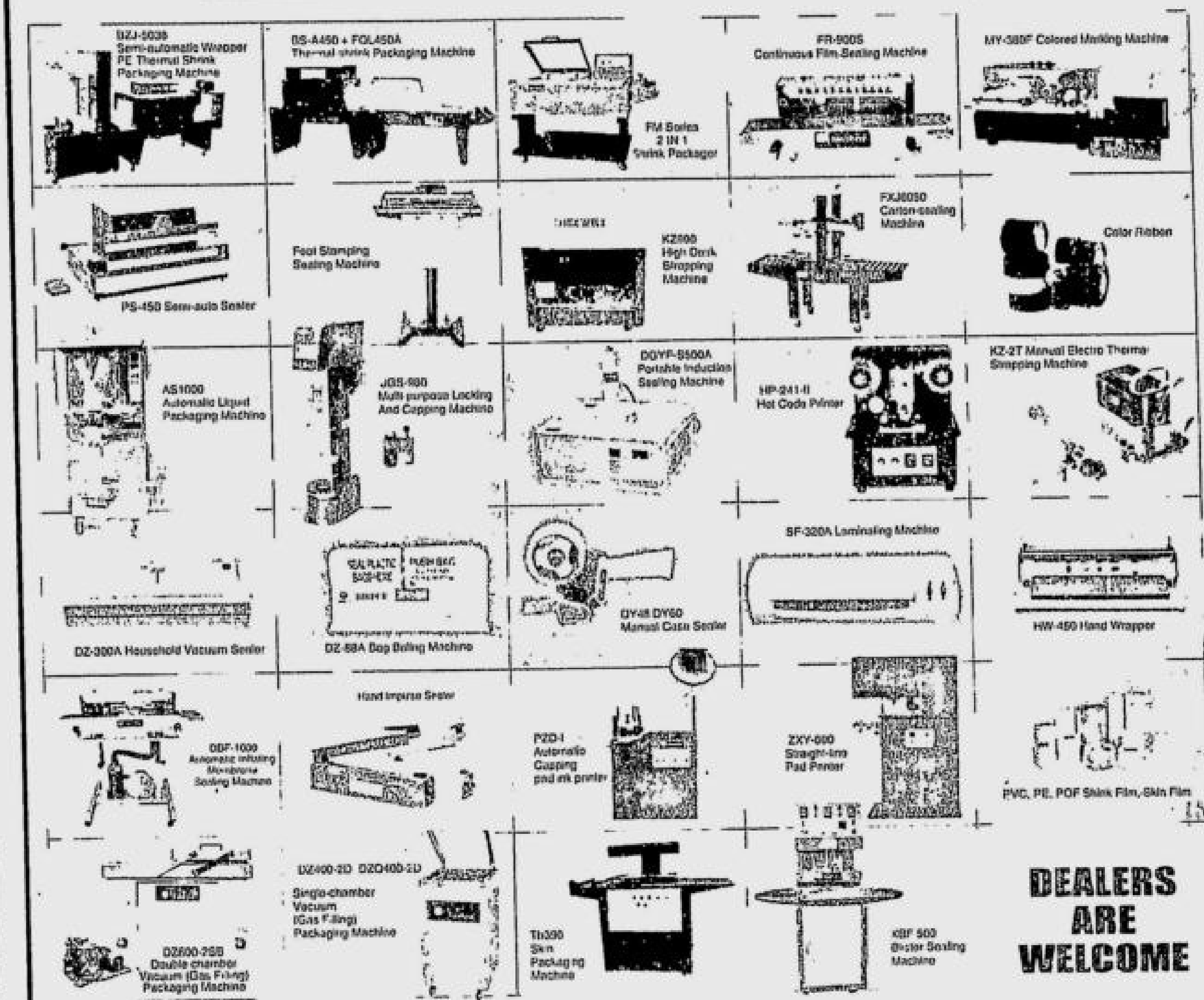

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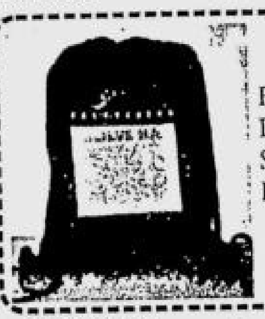

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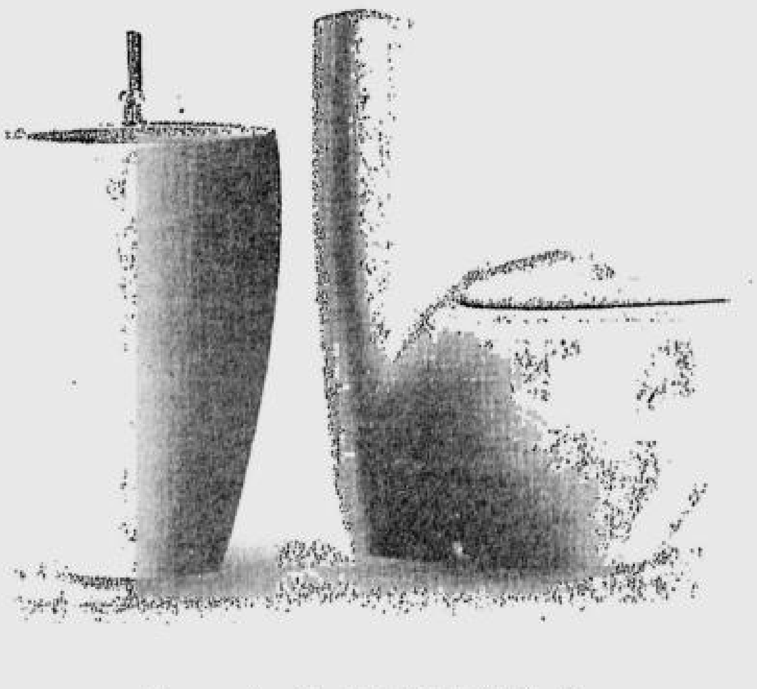

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Pacquiao's mom wanted match to end early

By Aquiles Z. Zonio
PDI Mindanao Bureau

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Time seemed to stop here as almost every household was glued to the television, waiting for the Pacquiao-Morales rematch.

The streets were practically deserted.

When Manny Pacquiao sent Erik Morales to the canvas in the 10th round, residents yelled and jumped in jubilation. Many came out of their homes and danced in the streets.

But Manny's mother, Dionisia, told reporters that she was not happy that Morales lasted until the 10th round.

She said she wanted the match to end early to spare her son from a beating.

But she was still thankful her son won the fight.

She was also grateful to the Filipino nation for praying for her son and for continuously supporting him in his boxing career.

Dionisia was rushed to the hospital in March last year when she found it difficult to breathe after learning that her son had sustained a cut in the right eyebrow during his first fight with Morales.

Pacquiao lost that fight.

Yesterday, Pacquiao's residence in Labangal village was teeming with supporters, all rejoicing at the victory of their townmate.

Rey Golingan, chair of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines here, said he was surprised Pacquiao was not as aggressive as in his previous fights.

Golingan said the Filipino fighter could have knocked Morales down early in the fight had he fought more aggressively.

"My prediction was two rounds short. But just the same I was confident Manny will win in the rematch," he said.

He advised Pacquiao to remain humble.

"I hope he will take good care of himself and his finances. It is public knowledge that he wasted millions in cockfighting," the boxing official said.

In Pagadian City, businessman Profito Luab, 56, had to postpone Sunday Mass to watch the fight.

"I guess God can forgive me for watching this match first before going to church," said Luab, a member of the Knights of Columbus and a devout Catholic.

Luab's son, Glenn Mark, did the same.

Father and son had to shell out P300 for a pre-paid card for their cable TV so they could watch the live broadcast of the fight.

Neighbors swarmed into the house of the Luabs as the family was the only one with pay per view access in the area.

The sight of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo congratulating Pacquiao after the match triggered catcalls from viewers in Pagadian City.

"Mike Arroyo should have been in Congress for the Senate jueteng probe. He should not be there in the match," Roger Brazil, a student, said.

"Mike Arroyo is really not concerned that his wife may be ousted by rebellious soldiers," Brazil said. ***With reports from Jeoffrey Maitem and Michael Sarcauga, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

PACUIAO'S mother Dionisia prays for a quick win by her son over Morales in their house in General Santos City.
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Cheers erupt in mall, plaza

By Tarra V. Quismundo, Margaux C. Ortiz and Luige A. del Puerto

THE RICH AND NOT-SO-RICH Filipinos were one in cheering for Manny Pacquiao as he slugged it out with Erik Morales. It didn't matter whether some had paid to watch a live broadcast of the fight in a mall or others saw it hours later on free TV projected on a giant screen in a plaza.

With every solid hit and knockdown, thousands of boxing fans who shelled out P300 jumped to their feet and erupted in cheers in the jam-packed theaters of SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

At Plaza Miranda in Manila, men with backpacks, fathers carrying their children, and couples holding hands cheered every time Pacquiao threw jabs and powerful punches at the Mexican boxer.

In an operating room at the East Avenue Medical Center in Quezon City, nurses, doctors and aides rejoiced when a hook caught Morales in the 10th round, sending him to the canvas.

"We cheered every round, and we'd tease persons in the other room, where an operation was going on and they therefore couldn't watch the fight, that Manny Pacquiao had fallen," said Pearl Morito, a nurse.

Appendectomy

It was perfect that there was just one emergency operation going on throughout the bout. A 16-year-old girl was undergoing an appendectomy.

"Every break, we'd go to the hallway and just kind of cheer. Pacman's really great!" Morito said. "Everybody was in a jolly mood."

One of the staffers' relatives even called from the United States to announce that Morales had been knocked down. She could not wait, so everyone knew the result by Round 2.

"It's over for Morales," said Jaime Base, 66, at SM Megamall. Base fought in small-town boxing events in his native Camarines Norte in his youth.

Mark Uy, 16, said: "It's worth it! The fight was great!"

Beamed by satellite from Las Vegas through Solar Sports, the Pacquiao-Morales rematch was a box-office hit at the mall, which opened early and devoted nine cinemas for the screening.

Sold out

Tickets were sold out two days before the fight, said theater managers, but overwhelming demand prompted ticket booths to sell more for throngs of patrons who patiently lined up although no more seats were available.

Theater officers said they could not reveal actual ticket sales. But based on theater capacities that varied from 600 to 1,100, the viewers, including a sizeable number who stood throughout the broadcast, might have well exceeded 5,000.

"We were here at 6 a.m., and we ran to get in line. My children advised me to just watch here because they knew I was impatient," said Base, who came to the mall with his son-in-law.

4 hours of screening

Running roughly an hour ahead of the regular TV broadcast, the mall screening lasted almost four hours as it featured supporting bouts starting at around 8:30 a.m.

But when a fierce-looking Pacquiao was shown on the big screen emerging from his dressing room at 12:30 p.m., the crowd began an almost chaotic cheer.

Every time the 27-year-old boxing hero landed a brutal punch on the taller Mexican, the male-dominated crowd roared. For them, Pacquiao's punches were like bombs dropped from a fighter jet.

On the edge of their seats, the viewers anticipated Morales' counter punches, and kept silent each time he connected. But the mood turned festive when Pacquiao unleashed a flurry of his own, battering his rival who seemingly weakened at every sound of the bell.

"End it now!" a man yelled halfway through the match.

Ecstasy, boos

As soon as Pacquiao did, in 2 minutes 33 seconds into the 10th round, the viewers—yuppies, seniors and teens—were on their feet ecstatic, raising fists and swapping congratulations.

Many pulled out mobile phones to spread the news to friends and family members watching the delayed broadcast at their homes.

The cheers turned to boos when Pacquiao was shown on screen embracing Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, who climbed up the ring with First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo to congratulate the boxer moments after the fight.

"Pacquiao was in excellent form," Fermin Aragones, 52, said at Plaza Miranda. "He really makes you proud to be a Filipino."

Lani Laroa, 24, said staying under the sun to watch the match was worth it.

Laroa and a friend went straight to the plaza after hearing Mass at the nearby Quiapo Church.

Dancing

"We wouldn't have seen Pacquiao's victory had we gone home after the Mass," she said, her eyes still glued to the giant screen on the Mercury Drug building's facade.

Many men who watched the fight were overjoyed after Pacquiao brought Morales to his knees in Round 10.

"I knew he would win, I knew he would win," a cigarette vendor shouted in Filipino, dancing around his friends.

Jeepneys clogged the westbound lane of Quezon Boulevard as drivers slowed down to glance at the giant screen shortly after Pacquiao won.

'Hello Manny' …

From page A1

It went like this:

"Hello, Manny? *Pipilitin mo, ha?* (You will try your best?) *Kasi … ano … ano … pag natalo ka, i-ku-kudeta ako* (Because if, you lose, there will be a coup d'etat)."

Coup jitters hit the country for the umpteenth time last week. Even Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez was predicting one over the weekend.

But for a few hours yesterday, the nervousness appeared to have all but disappeared. The nation was mesmerized by Pacquiao's demolition of Erik Morales.

Even mutinous soldiers took time off from offering solutions to the ills of the Armed Forces to watch the Philippine boxing hero go up against Mexico's "El Terrible."

The Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines allowed the Magdalo leaders to watch the fight by placing a TV set near their cells, said an officer, speaking on condition that he not be named because only his superiors were authorized to speak to media.

He said Isafp officials thought it "humane" to let the rebels of the failed 2003 Oakwood mutiny watch the boxing match, easing restrictions on a lot of privileges since Marine Capt. Nicanor Faeldon escaped in December.

It would have been a fine day for Anakpawis party-list Rep. Rafael Marinno.

"Everything went well until Ms Arroyo called up to congratulate Pacquiao," Marinno said, referring to the nationally televised phone conversation between Ms Arroyo and Pacquiao after the fight.

"Her voice resembled that of the female voice in the 'Hello Garci' audio tapes," said Mariano, which nudged him back to political reality.

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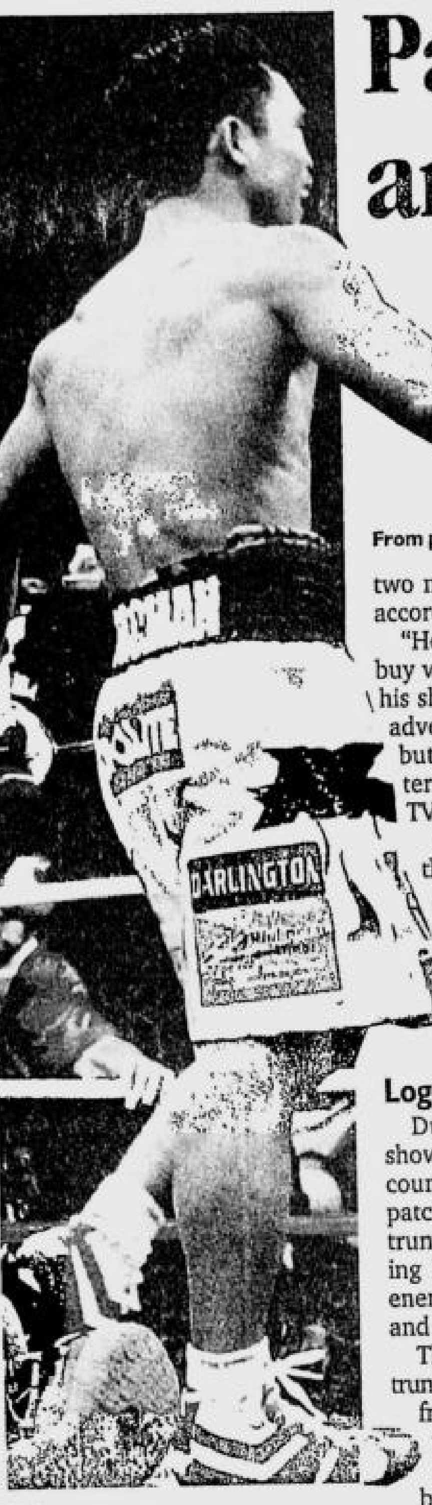
Pacquiao's trunks worth an estimated P5 million



SPACES for patches on Pacquiao's shorts sold for as much as P1.5 million each. AP

From page A1

two months before the fight, according to an advertiser.

"He even told us that the best buy was the space at the back of his shorts, not in front," said the advertiser, who wanted to buy but couldn't afford the space after paying the boxer's fee for a TV commercial.

Pacquiao, who was pitching the ad space himself, told the advertiser that the back of a fighter's trunks was more prominent to TV audiences than the front. The spot was later taken by Motolite, a car battery firm.

Logo spread

During yesterday's bout, shown on cable TV, the INQUIRER counted at least six product patches on Pacquiao's white trunks—Motolite, No Fear clothing line, Café Puro coffee, Enoc energy group, Darlington socks and Philippine Airlines.

The red and yellow flames on the trunks, which distinguished him from Morales who was also in white, were part of the logo of the clothing company that has been dressing up the Filipino fighter since his early pro days.

Pacquiao recently launched his own clothing line bearing his initials, "MP."

Colors, typeface and artwork all contributed to the prominence of the logos on Pacquiao's shorts during the bout. For example, Motolite, which was in white sans-serif type on a red background, registered clearly on TV screens. So did Café Puro, which was also white on red.

The rest of the patches were barely recognizable in the dizzying layout.

Celebrity endorsers

Pacquiao is one of the most popular product endorsers in the country today. He has joined the ranks of celebrity sports endorsers like Alvin Patrimonio, Benjie Paras and Lydia de Vega.

The boxing idol now has the advertising clout enjoyed for the longest time by show biz personalities Kris Aquino, Aga Muhlach, Sharon Cuneta and Cesar Montano, who have cornered the market for product endorsements since the '90s.

Unlike them, Pacquiao peddles his own media outlet through a billboard company.

His talent fee for endorsing a brand in a trimedia campaign is still nowhere near the paychecks of Muhlach et al. So far, the biggest advertising deal Pacquiao has clinched was worth less than P10 million. This could change, however, with his win against Morales yesterday.

Recently, he added another item to his resumé—TV host. After starring in a movie, cutting a record and shooting a music video, he is now host of a weekly sports program, "Manny Pacquiao, Sports Idol," on Channel 13.

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What politicians said about Pacquiao's win

By Michael Lim Ubac

WARRING POLITICIANS SET aside their bickering yesterday as they lavishly praised Manny Pacquiao, calling him a "warrior," a "hero," "Asia's greatest fighter" and the "pride" of the Malay race.

"With this fabulous victory, Pacquiao has raised the morale of the Filipino people and made the nation proud of one of its greatest sons," Speaker Jose de Venecia said moments after Pacquiao finished off Mexico's Erik Morales in 10 rounds.

The Speaker said Pacquiao came from a "great line of Filipino ring fighters," from Pancho Villa to Gabriel "Flash" Elorde.

"This is what makes us Filipinos proud of ourselves. *Taas noo kahit kanino* (Our heads held high before all). This is (what) Manny taught us today," said Rep. Monico Puentevella, former chair of the House committee on youth and sports.

Administration Rep. Jesli Lapus, chair of the House ways and means committee, said Pacquiao's win augured well for the country's future on the global stage.

Rep. Joey Salceda, a staunch administration ally, said: "Like Pacman (Pacquiao), with her stamina, President Arroyo will outlast her opponents till (2010) by knockout."

This prompted Anakpawis party-list Rep. Rafael Mariano to say: "Everything went well until Ms Arroyo called up to congratulate Pacquiao. Her voice resembled that of the female voice in the 'Hello Garci' audio tapes."

Cibac party-list Rep. Joel Villanueva said Pacquiao exemplified what the Filipino could do given the right support and encouragement.

"We have a lot of Pacquiao's out there—in the field of information technology, education, maritime industry, architecture, the arts; you name it, there's a Pinoy or Pinay excelling in us.

"They all need the support similar to what 'Pacman' is now getting," he said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, January 23, 2006
3rd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 2 S 5:1-7, 10
Gospel: Mark 3:22-30

The teachers of the Law who had come from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul: the chief of the demons helps him to drive out demons."

Jesus called them to him and began teaching them by means of stories or parables, "How can Satan drive out Satan? If a nation is divided by civil war, that nation cannot stand. If a family divides itself into groups, that family will not survive. In the same way, if Satan has risen against himself and is divided, he will not stand; he is finished. No one can break into the house of the Strong one in order to plunder his goods, unless he first ties up the Strong one. Then indeed, he can plunder his house.

"Truly, I say to you, every sin will be forgiven humankind, even insults to God, however numerous. But whoever slanders the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven: he carries the guilt of his sin forever."

This was their sin when they said, "He has an evil spirit in him."

Commentary

David is thirty when he reigns over Israel, and will reign for 40 years. David grows more powerful because the Lord of hosts is with him. And Jesus begins to meet with resistance but rebuffs them with his examples: "No one can enter a strong man's house and despoil his property unless he has first put him under restraint. Only then can he plunder his house." And he assures those who can hear that he forgives everyone every sin except the one who curses the Spirit. He speaks to his own people who know and should recognize him from the texts and promises. What is this sin? Perhaps only God knows, but it is connected to those of us who resist and speak about Satan (the Hinderer of the children of God), calling human beings by that name and accusing them of evil. Perhaps we should be more careful of who lives in the Spirit of God and look to ourselves first.

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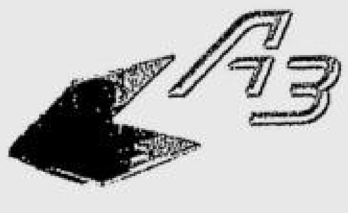

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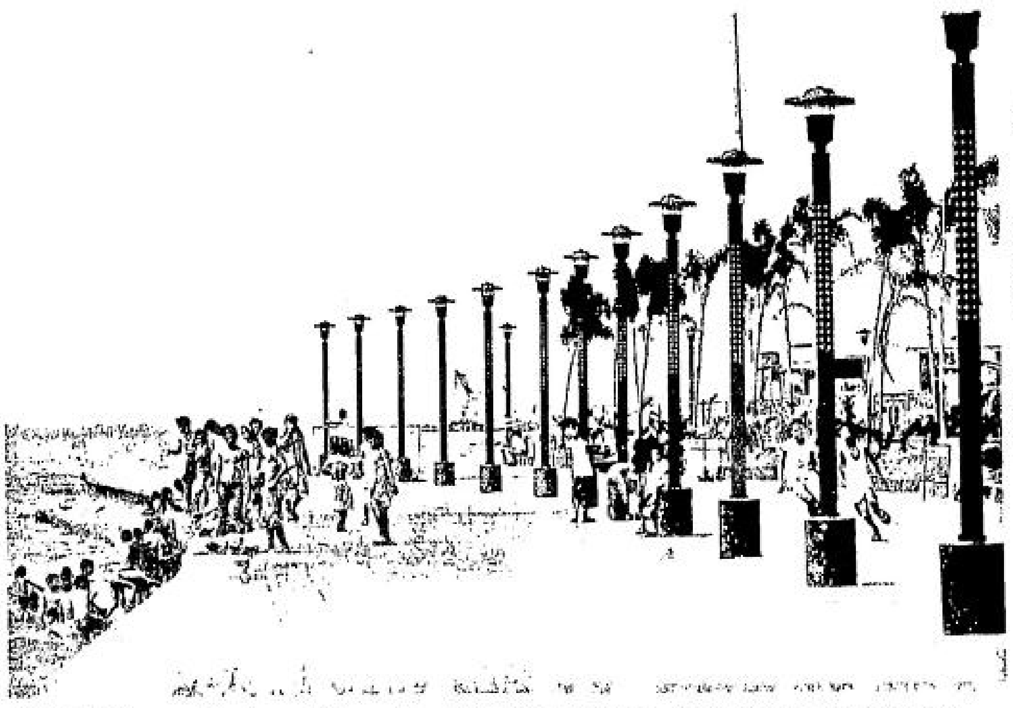


NAVOTAS opened last week its version of Manila's Baywalk—the 9,000-sq m Centennial Park on the C-4 Road in Bagumbayan. JOAN BONDOC

Navotas inaugurates Centennial Park

By Nancy C. Carvajal

NAVOTAS HAS A NEW LANDMARK.

Mayor Toby Tiangco inaugurated last week the 9,000-sq m Centennial Park, as part of a week-long celebration commemorating the municipality's centennial.

"With the new landmark, we welcome the next century with hope and the belief that nothing is impossible," Tiangco said.

He described the park as "the one with the magnificent view of Manila Bay and its famous sunset."

"We plan to convert the park into another tourist attraction, aside from the fish port which is still the leading attraction of the municipality," Tiangco said.

The P5-million park, located on the C-4 Road in Bagumbayan, was patterned after Manila's famous Baywalk. It has pathways fronting the bay which are lined with decorative lamp posts and palm trees.

"Though last minute changes on the previous plan delayed the project, it is already being enjoyed by promenaders," said Raffy Serrano, overall in charge of the project.

To add to the park's historical character, Tiangco said he would suggest to the City Council that the Mangingisda monument, which symbolizes the municipality's heritage, be moved to the park.

Navotas, the country's fishing capital, was declared separate from Malabon in 1906 through the Philippine Commission Act 1441.

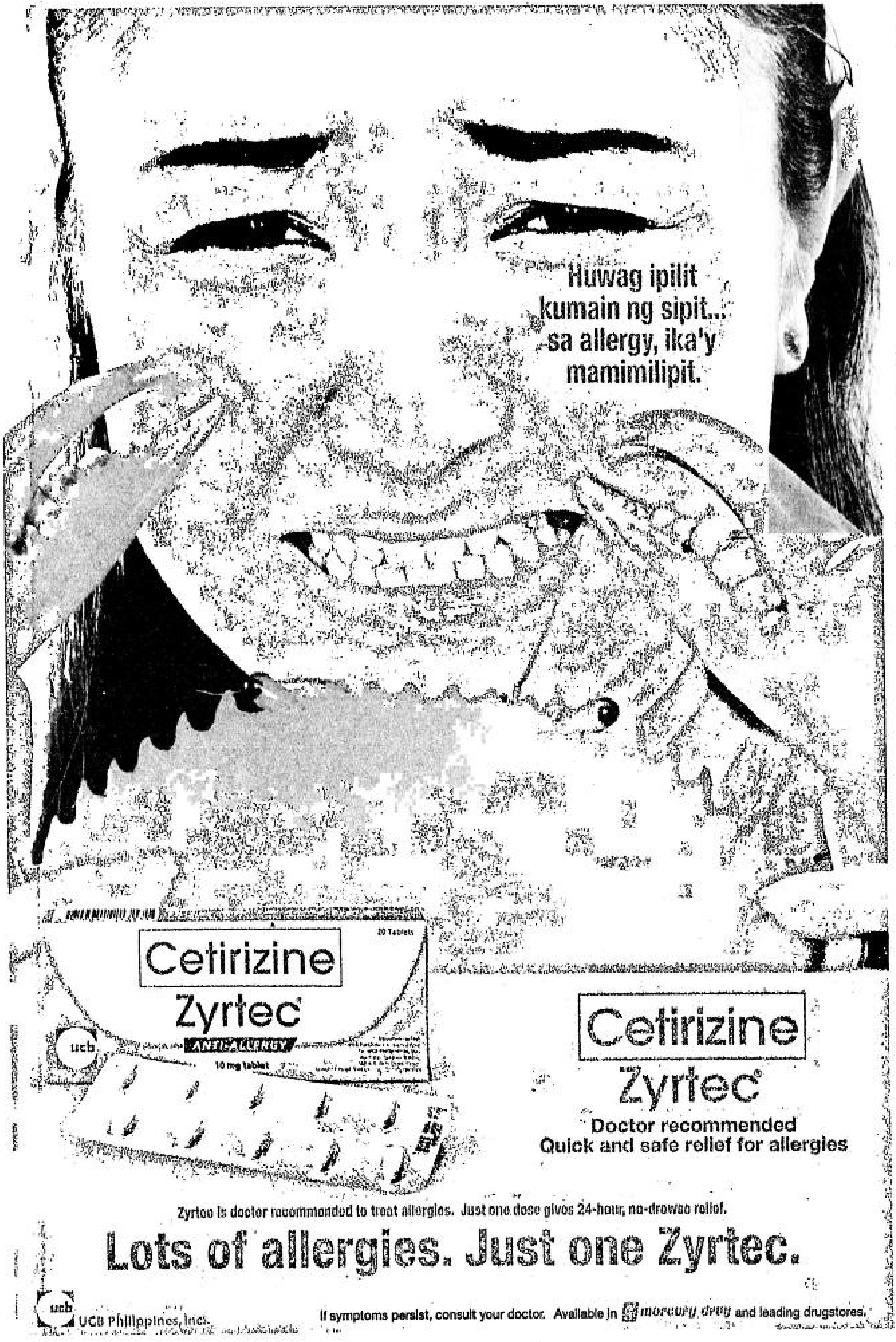
Tiangco, however, said the municipality is ready for cityhood.

He expressed hope that his dream would soon become a reality for the once flood-prone town which is now almost flood-free.

Navotas is bordered by the Binuangan, Daang Cawayan and Dampalit rivers and the Malabon channel. When the rivers' water levels rise during high tide, the town's streets become flooded.

Ironically, the rivers which cause floods are also where most residents get their livelihood, Tiangco said.

"Flooding in some streets are now a thing of the past," he added, after the installation of pumps and the construction of dikes to let the flood waters subside more quickly.



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E-load firm loses ₱20M to robbers

By DJ Yap

THIEVES BROKE INTO A MARKETING FIRM last week and made off with P20 million worth of computers, phones, electronic equipment, and information database.

Pedro Horcajo, chief operations officer of Uniloads Networks Integrated Co. Inc., a mobile phone e-load marketing company, told the police that robbers entered their office on the second floor of the Lazo Building, Annapolis Street, in Cubao, Quezon City sometime last week.

He said he discovered the theft on Jan. 19, at around 6 p.m.

Missing were more than 50 Nokia mobile phones, central processing units, a Samsung LCD monitor, customized software application, and a computer database (Uniloads information storage), believed to be worth P18 million, the executive said.

Horcajo added that two boxes which contained original income tax returns, tax receipts, financial records, cash disbursements, and other confidential papers were also missing.

He told the police that the office was in the care of Arnaldo Dario and Richard Lao when the theft was discovered.

Charges have yet to be filed since the police said they have no suspects yet.

Uniloads is a company engaged in retailing prepaid phone loads from various telecommunication networks, as well as a multi-level marketing scheme for its members.

Nature can't be stopped but . . .

By Jocelyn R. Uy

ALTHOUGH THE CITY GOVERNMENT CANnot stop the movement of fault lines in Muntinlupa, it can regulate other activities that aggravate the situation by enacting a law.

Mayor Jaime Fresnedi said an ordinance that would prevent the excessive extraction of ground water by factories could reduce the damage to houses that stand on fault lines.

Right now, there is no law prohibiting factories and commercial establishments in the city from extracting too much water from the earth, said the mayor.

"So, I am encouraging the city council to pass an ordinance and whatever they come up with, I will implement," Fresnedi told the INQUIRER in an interview.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) has partly attributed the continuous movement of the earth in several areas in Muntinlupa to the over extraction of ground water.

When factories pump out too much water from the earth, they create a vacuum which weakens the soil, Jet Pabilonia, the city's National Disaster Coordinating Council head, told the INQUIRER.

"Most of the factories are located in the eastern portion of the city and the earth in that part is soft-based," he said.

The eastern portion of the city starts from the 17-kilometer shoreline of the Laguna Lake, up to the national road, where the fault lines or fissures end, he added.

Pabilonia's office has so far traced 25 fissures in the city.

Pabilonia, meanwhile, reminded homeowners and home developers of a 1998 ordinance outlining safety measures that must be observed in areas affected by fault lines.

"The ordinance states that buffer zones, five meters tangential to the fault line, must be developed in structures affected by fault lines," he said.

Another provision in the ordinance states that homeowners affected by the fissures could avail of a discount in their real property taxes, he added.

The rate of the discount varies, depending on the extent of damage to the owner's property.

Pabilonia advised homeowners affected by the fault lines to go to city hall and show their land title or tax declaration to avail of the discount.

METROBRIEFS

Parañaque extends deadline

THE PARAÑAQUE City government yesterday announced that it has extended the deadline for the renewal of business permits and tax payments from Jan. 20 to 31. The Business Permits and Licensing Office will also remain open after office hours and on weekends until Jan. 31 to accommodate traders. "By [extending the deadline], we are providing business establishments ample time to prepare the necessary requirements to renew their business permits," Mayor Florencio Bernabe said in a statement.

Jocelyn R. Uy

QC celebrates Bible Week

SALVATION
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THE QUEZON City government has lined up a series of activities in celebration of Bible Week starting today until Jan. 31. These include a thanksgiving prayer at today's flag raising ceremony at City Hall and the distribution of bibles and other religious literature to residents. Organizing the event are the Quezon City Christian Organization of Employees (QC-Core), the Quezon City Cultural and Tourism Affairs Office, and the office of the majority floor leader Councilor Ariel Inton. In a statement, Inton and QC-Core chair Leslie Villorente expressed their belief that "moral standards can move people to be more productive members of society." The celebration is in line with Presidential Proclamations 44 and 1067, as well as city resolution 2730 (series of 2005), declaring the last week of January as Bible Week.

DJ Yap

Wanted: 150 additional policemen

QUEZON City needs more than 150 police officers to ensure that residents of the biggest city in Metro Manila, in terms of land area and population, get enough protection. The additional personnel will allow the city police to meet the ideal ratio of one policeman for every 500 residents, according to the city's chief of police. Quezon City Police District (QCPD) director Chief Supt. Nicasio Radovan Jr. said that right now, he has 2,998 men under his command. Of the number, 2,873 are uniformed policemen while the rest are non-uniformed, he said. The city, on the other hand, has a population of more than 1.2 million and a land area of more than 77,000 hectares, he noted. The QCPD has 11 police stations scattered in four congressional districts. The policeman-to-population ratio in each of its police stations is: La Loma, 1:1,509; Baler, 1:1,583; Talipapa, 1:2,020; Novaliches, 1:532; Lagro, 1:1,181; Batasan Hills, 1:1,165; Cubao, 1:1,914; Project 4, 1:1,891; Anonas, 1:1,479; Kamuning, 1:1,997; and Galas, 1:1,392.

DJ Yap

UP High Class '56 grand reunion

THE UP High School Class 1956 Alumni Association will mark its golden anniversary with a week-long celebration from Feb. 22 to 28. Activities lined up for the reunion include: registration and cocktails (day 1); a *balik*-UP picnic at La Mesa Dam (day 2); luncheon fellowship (day 3); gala night (day 4); golf/rest day (day 5); and an inter-island trip to Puerto Galera, Naujan and Baco in Oriental Mindoro (days 6-7). For inquiries, please contact the celebration secretariat through e-mail: argus@netgazer.com.ph; fax no. 818-1387; tel. nos. 817-7905/815-1538; or call Sharon or Weng at 0919-6948788; Melch Elegado at 8131452 or 0919-2505512 and Frank Libatique at 751-2232 or 0919-6948788.

Sto. Niño de Providencia marks 14th year

THE MIRACULOUS Sto. Niño de Providencia will be celebrating its 14th anniversary on Friday, Jan. 27. Everyone is invited to join the thanksgiving celebration from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 65 A. Pijuan St., BFRV, Las Piñas City. The highlight of the celebration will be a motorcade/ procession, which will start at 2:15 p.m. from the Sto. Niño prayer room to the Mary Mother of The Church Parish for the 3 p.m. concelebrated Mass to be led by Msgr. Philip Ocol, parish priest.

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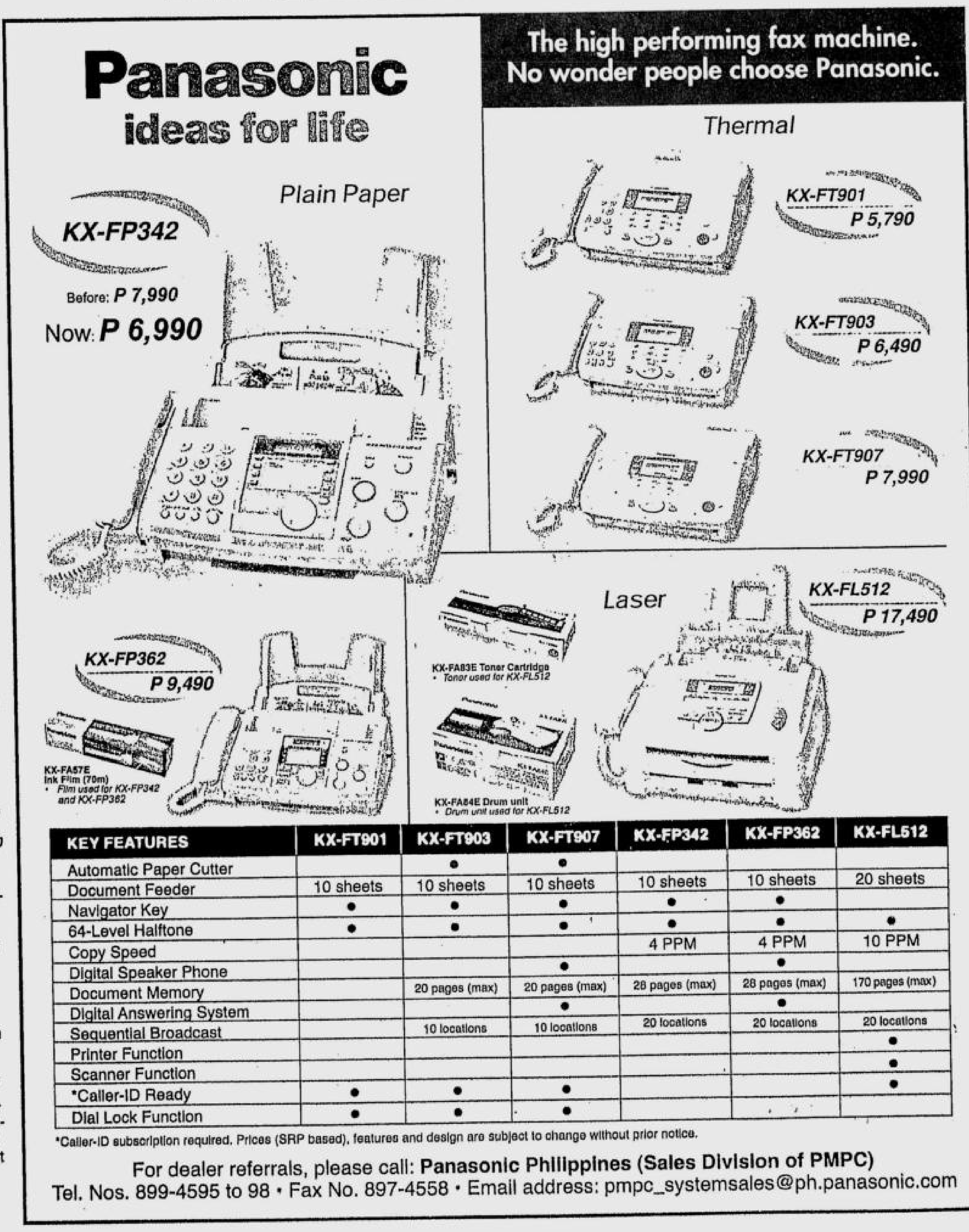
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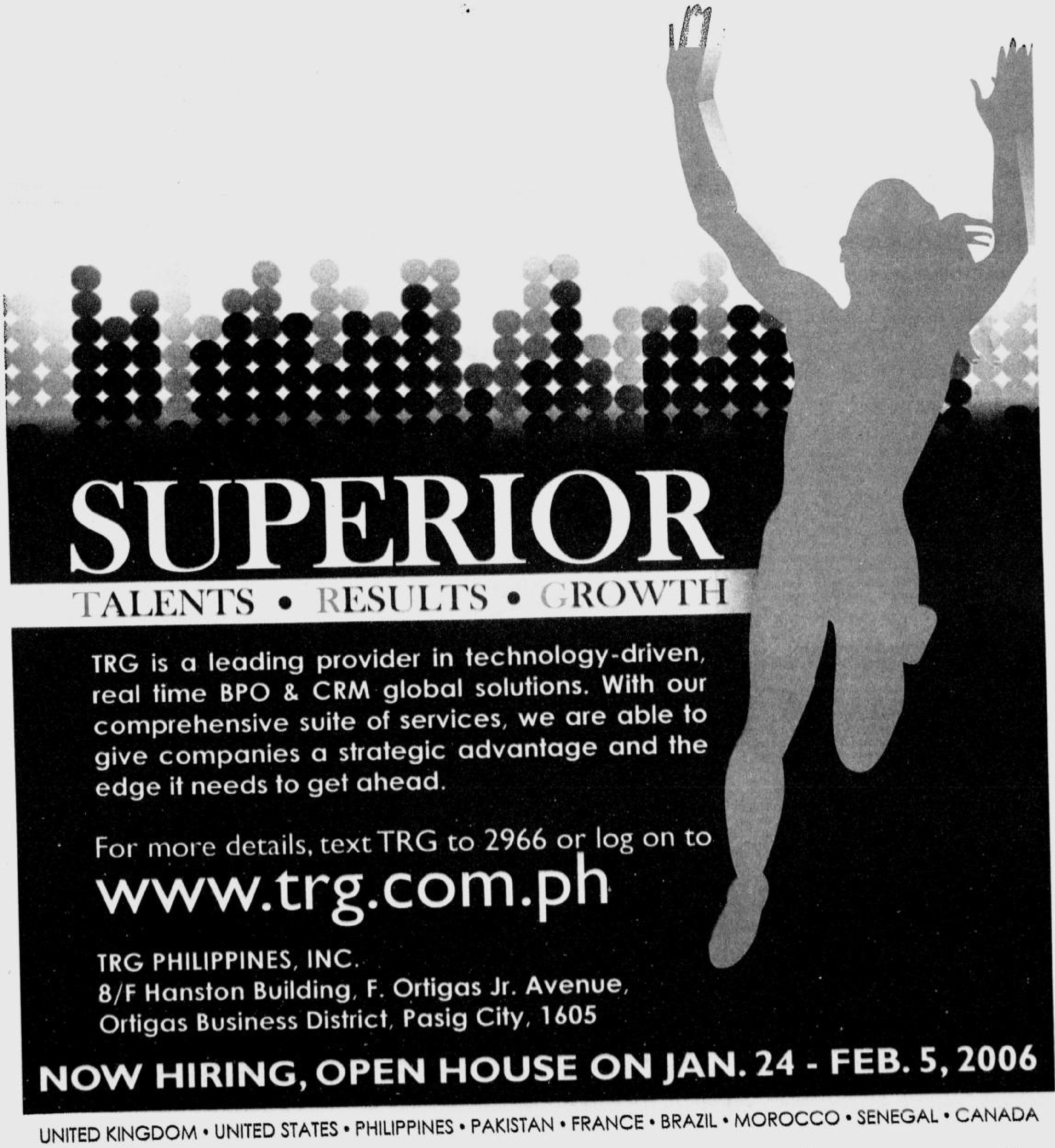

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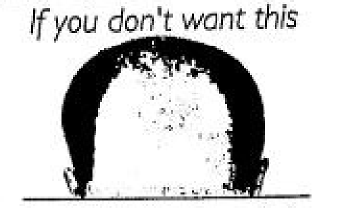

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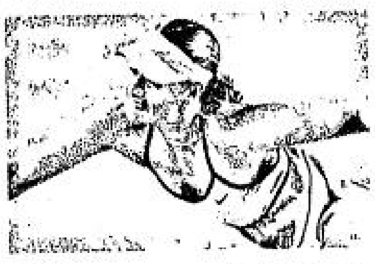
WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Roddick tumbles out** /A28



- **James ends Cavs' road miseries with record** /A30

- **Heat struggling to meet their own expectations** /A30

Manny's favored weapon punches hole in Morales

Reyes gloves unmask El Terrible as faded fighter

LAS VEGAS—MANNY PACQUIAO WORE PUNCHER'S gloves last night and he used them for what they were intended—to punch a hole in Erik Morales.

After claiming all week that the difference in their 130-lb rematch would be that he would wear his gloves of choice, the Reyes brand favored by heavyhanded hitters, Pacquiao twice dropped Morales in Round 10 before the fight was stopped with 27 seconds remaining and Morales on his knees, his spirit and face broken.

By then, Pacquiao had repeatedly overwhelmed Morales with his hand speed, body shots, and a scintillating right hand. He was a young man turning the 29-year-old Morales into an old fighter.

Unable to slip away from Pacquiao or back him up, Morales grew ever more helpless as the rounds passed and his younger opponent continued to crowd and batter him from every angle.

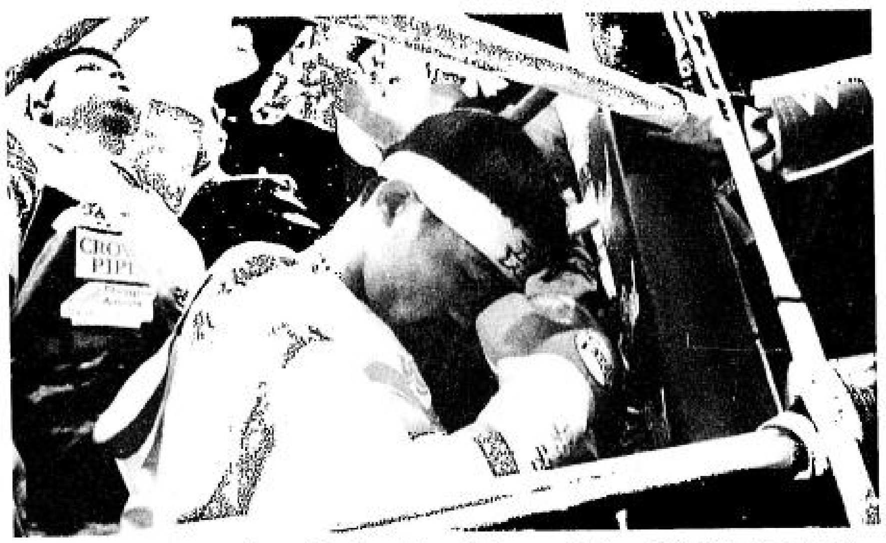
"I was getting hit a lot in the head," Morales (48-4) said after referee Kenny Bayless stopped the fight. "As the rounds went on, I was getting tired. At the end, I felt slow."

That's because by the end he was slow. And seemingly without any way to repel the constant assault by the 27-year-old Pacquiao (41-3-2, 32 KOs).

"The gloves helped a lot," Pacquiao claimed. "I liked my gloves. I could see he was having problems taking my punches. I had no problems taking his. He never hurt me.

"I landed a lot more different punches this time. I started to get to him to the body."

Those body punches took a toll on Morales, who had won their first meeting last March in large part because he cut Pacquiao's eye early and left him bleeding so badly that it impaired his vision from the fifth round on and seemed to break his concentration.



MANNY Pacquiao attributes his win to his religious conviction, his fighting heart and the Reyes gloves which he was not allowed to use in his first fight with Erik Morales. AFP

This time, however, nothing impaired him, most especially not the faded Morales, who has lost three of his last four fights and seems to have become an old man trying to survive in a familiar neighborhood that has turned into a dangerous place.

"The tide turned in the sixth round," Pacquiao's trainer, Freddie Roach, said. "He [Morales] was fading from body shots. Manny needs to work on his defense, but his right hook was beautiful."

New York Times News Service

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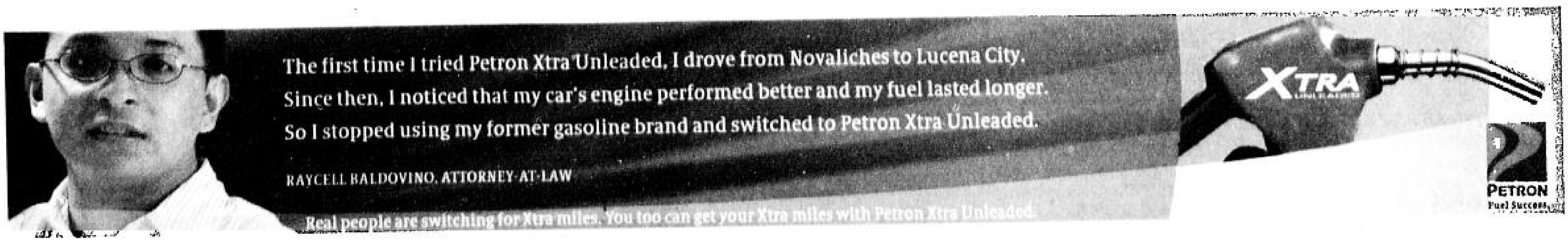

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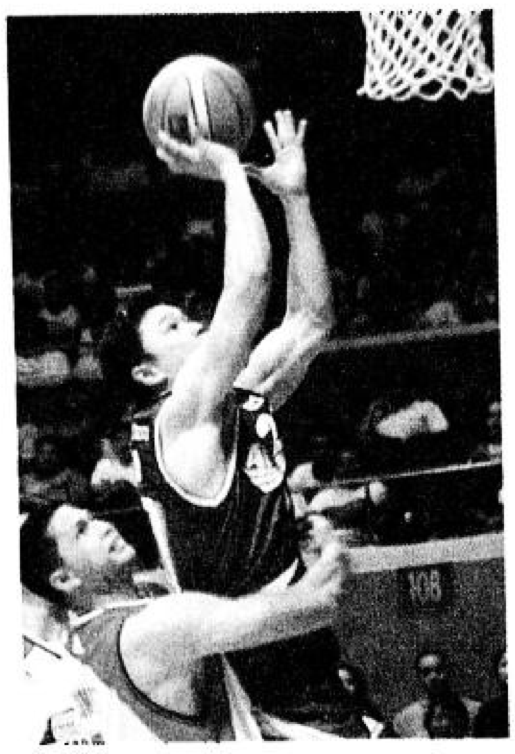

AIR21'S Gary David puts up a shot despite a foul from Purefoods' Jun Limpot. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Chandler lifts fresh Giants

By June Navarro

AIR21 HAD KILLED THE LEAGUE'S GIANTS IN THE PLAYOFFS. BUT PROBABLY NOT the real giant.

The Purefoods Chunkee Giants leaned on Marquin Chandler's beastly performance to subdue the battle-weary Express, 94-89, at the start of their San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference semifinal series last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Unstoppable from all angles, Chandler tallied a conference-high 46 points and pulled down 16 rebounds, including a breakaway floater in the dying seconds that sealed the opener of the best-of-seven duel for the Giants.

Barangay Ginebra outplayed Red Bull Barako in overtime to win, 105-100, at the start of their own semifinal showdown.

The Barako trailed by 11 points at the end of the third period but rallied to force the extension at 89-all as Enrico Villanueva beat the regulation buzzer with a follow-up of a James Penny miss.

"He (Chandler) played his best offensive game but we cannot just rely on him," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio, fresh from a three-week respite after securing an automatic semifinal slot after topping the classification round.

"I'm sure they'll (Express) be ready for him defensively on Wednesday," Gregorio added. Game 2 is set on Wednesday.

Playing their third game in as many days, the Express were surprisingly all souped-up contrary to what many had anticipated.

The Express had booted out the San Miguel Beermen in the wild card phase and eliminated the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals in the quarterfinals.

Ranidel De Ocampo and Shawn Daniels even paced the Express to an 87-81 lead before exhaustion set in.

With Kerby Raymundo and James Yap backing up Chandler, Purefoods razed that deficit and held its ground against Air21's desperate rally.

"We were there to match their intensity and emotion. But it's actually a blessing because they played three games in a row," said Gregorio.

Tantrums flew early when Homer Se and Raymundo got into each other's nerves while Chandler and Gary David engaged in a scuffle that stopped the game for almost five minutes and triggered a flurry of technicals near the end of the third.

David, last week's PBA Press Corps Player of the Week, led the Express with 18 points while Daniels had 15 points and 17 boards.

GAMES WEDNESDAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
4:40 p.m.—Barangay Ginebra vs Red Bull Barako
7:35 p.m.—Purefoods vs Air21

The scores:

First Game

PUREFOODS 94—Chandler 46, Yap 14, Raymundo 10, Pingris 7, Limpot 6, Yap 5, Simon 2, Yee 2, Castillo 2, Salvador 0, Artadi 0, Billones 0.

AIR21 89—David 18, Daniels 15, Ritualo 14, De Ocampo 13, Arboleda 12, Ferriols 8, Canaleta 4, Tubid 3, De Ocampo 2, Gonzales 0, Se 0, Fran 0.

Quarters 20-19, 46-41, 74-75, 94-89.

Second Game

GINEBRA 105—Menk 25, Caguioa 22, Santos 20, Adducul 16, Helterbrand 10, Porter 8, Sotto 2, Salvacion 1, Dimaunahan 1, Macapagal 0, Holper 0.

RED BULL 100—Penny 35, Tugade 23, Valenzuela 13, Villanueva 10, Pennisi 9, Cruz 3, Baguio 3, Najorda 2, Fonacier 2, Bugla 0, Robinson 0, Torion 0.

Quarters: 18-20, 44-41, 67-56, 89-all, 105-100.

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BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

LAS VEGAS—THERE'S A SPECIAL DISH, boiled to blissfull perfection in my mother's now-gone kitchen, that I surprisingly rediscovered in a Filipino restaurant—Ang Sariling Atin—in this perplexing gambling mecca a couple of days back.

It's the meat caldereta, cheese, tomato sauce, chili and other magical mix, served with a steaming plate of rice.

I last tasted that gorgeous hot dish nearly two decades ago, when my dear Mom could still do what she loved best. Cook what we, her sons, loved best.

I have all but given up tasting that unforgettable dish again.

You know what? I told the Three Musketeers of Cebu, namely Homer, Salven and Sam, Pacquiao can't lose his rematch with Erik Morales.

Why, they chorused.

Because you've treated me to this magical dish.

Yeah, the trio from Cebu wondered, but what has it got to do with Pacquiao's victory.

***

Not so simple. It just so happened that this special dish is called by a different name in these parts.

What?

It's called puchero, but it's actually my mother's glorious caldereta of old.

Don't leave yet. It's past deadline but this piece is being rushed, a couple of hours after Manny Pacquiao had done the miracle feat of stopping Erik Morales, the once unstoppable Mexican boxing great.

I repeat: Pacquiao could not miss because there are many good signs that had augured his ultimate success.

Like the Mass celebrated by a Filipino priest, Gerry Beof, who flew all the way from New York yesterday.

Pacquiao, it was bared, had had steamed fish for lunch, little soup around 3 p.m. before moving out of his suite at Wynn Las Vegas for the showdown with Morales yesterday.

There are many little things, several intangibles, that helped propel Pacquiao to the biggest win of his career.

***

Rex (Wakee) Salud swore there were three things that made Pacquiao win, namely *tapang, lakas, tatag* (courage, power, dedication).

For his part, trainer Freddie Roach bared that a great ingredient of the Pacquiao winning formula goes by a Mexican name.

Cleto Reyes. Yes, this was exactly the same pair Pacquiao had sorely missed when he failed to stop Morales in their first fight.

Said Roach when it was his turn to bare the secret of success: "That, Cleto Reyes, was the main ingredient that was absent in the Manila Ice the last time out."

To those who have forgotten it, Manila Ice was the secret weapon promised by Roach for Pacquiao's first fight with Morales last March.

It finally fitted into the fight scene on Pacquiao's second and successful try at immortality yesterday.

But, then, Roach explained Manila Ice was not the biggest secret behind their victory.

The biggest weapon? Overhaul.

Pacquiao, in his preparation against Morales, had to be reconditioned like a racing car being primed up for a championship race.

Roach tinkered with the Pacquiao system and, voila, the GenSan great learned how to duck, weave and defend.

He also developed counter-punching abilities.

Imagine Paquiao, whom we thought could win only by knockout, outpointing

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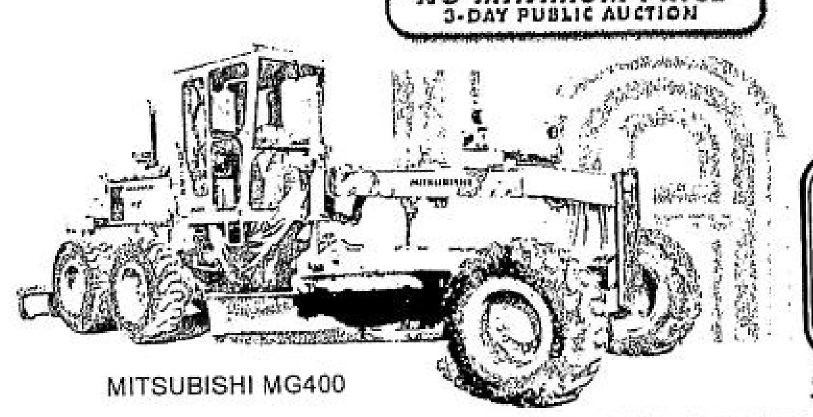

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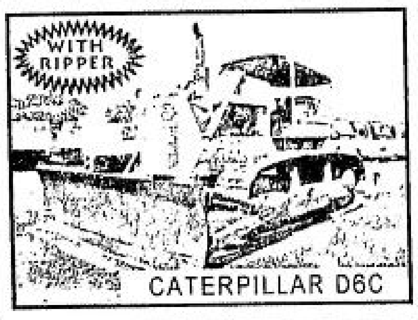

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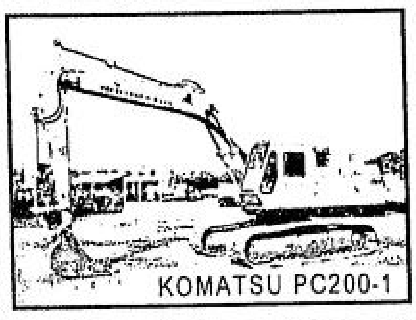

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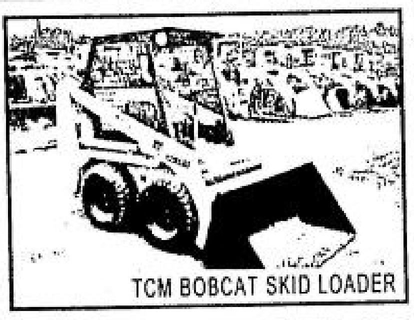

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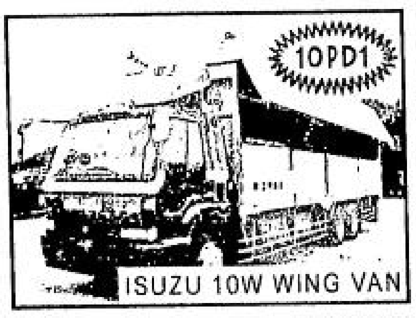

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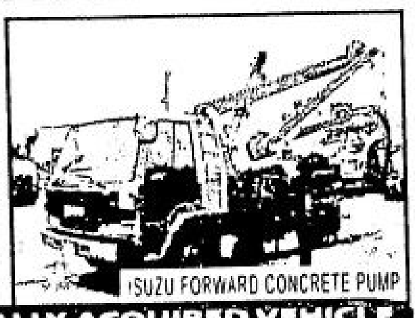

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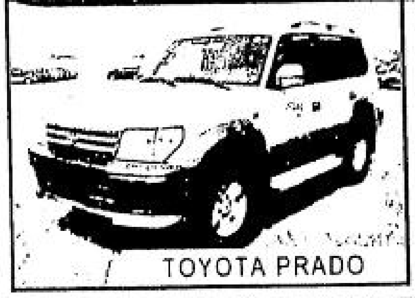

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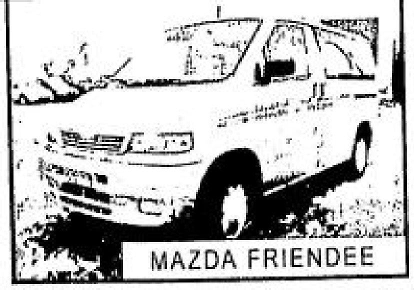

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HEROES CUP

Tangkay leads race for PBL MVP trophy

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE LEAGUE'S TOP team rightfully has the top man.

Jojo Tangkay, the veteran gunner of the front-running Rain or Shine, garnered the highest statistical points to lead the race for the Most Valuable Player plum in the PBL Heroes Cup.

The 6-foot-1 Tangkay amassed 358 statistical points at the end of the elimination round after averaging a league-leading 16.45 points, 6.8 rebounds, 2.1 assists and 1.1 steals.

"He's now a team player," said Rain or Shine coach Caloy Garcia of Tangkay, who strongly vied for the MVP award in 2004. "He has matured as a player."

Tangkay remains 38 points ahead of Hapee-PCU's Jason Castro, who took the second spot with 320 points.

The Teethmasters' fleet-footed guard tallied 14 points per game and ranked first in assists at 4.2 apg and fourth in steals at 1.8 spg.

Fil-Am Joe Devance slipped to third with 292 points after leading the statistical race midway in the conference. The 6-foot-7 center of the cellar-dwelling Toyota Otis Knights collected 15 ppg, 9 rpg and 1.5 blocks per game.

Top rebounder Kelly Williams and Arwind Santos, Magnolia Ice Cream's 1-2 punch, still remained in the hunt for the top individual award.

Williams, also a 6-foot-7 Fil-Am, was just a point behind Devance with 291 points. He logged in 11.4 ppg and 10.1 rpg, while Santos earned 281 points after norming 9 ppg and finishing third in rebounds at 9 rpg and second in blocks for the second-running Wizards.

Rounding up the top 10 were Fil-Am center Rob Reyes of Harbour Centre with 280 points (9.31 ppg and 9.9 rpg), top block shot artist Jay-R Reyes of Rain or Shine with 279 (8.4 ppg, 8 rpg and 2.1 bpg), Joseph Yeo of Harbour Centre with 262 (15.2 ppg and 4 rpg) and Hapee-PCU's Robert Sanz with 258(10 ppg and 4.5 rpg) and Gabby Espinas with 253 (10.2 ppg and 8.7 rpg).

Meanwhile, the semifinal round starts on Thursday with Rain or Shine tackling Harbour Centre, and Magnolia Ice Cream taking on Granny Goose.

Rain or Shine and Magnolia, the top-ranked squads, earned one-game incentives in the best-of-five series. Thus, they only need two victories, while Harbour Centre and Granny Goose must win thrice to advance to the finals.

GAMES THURSDAY
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2 p.m.—Rain or Shine vs Harbour Centre
4 p.m.—Magnolia vs Granny Goose

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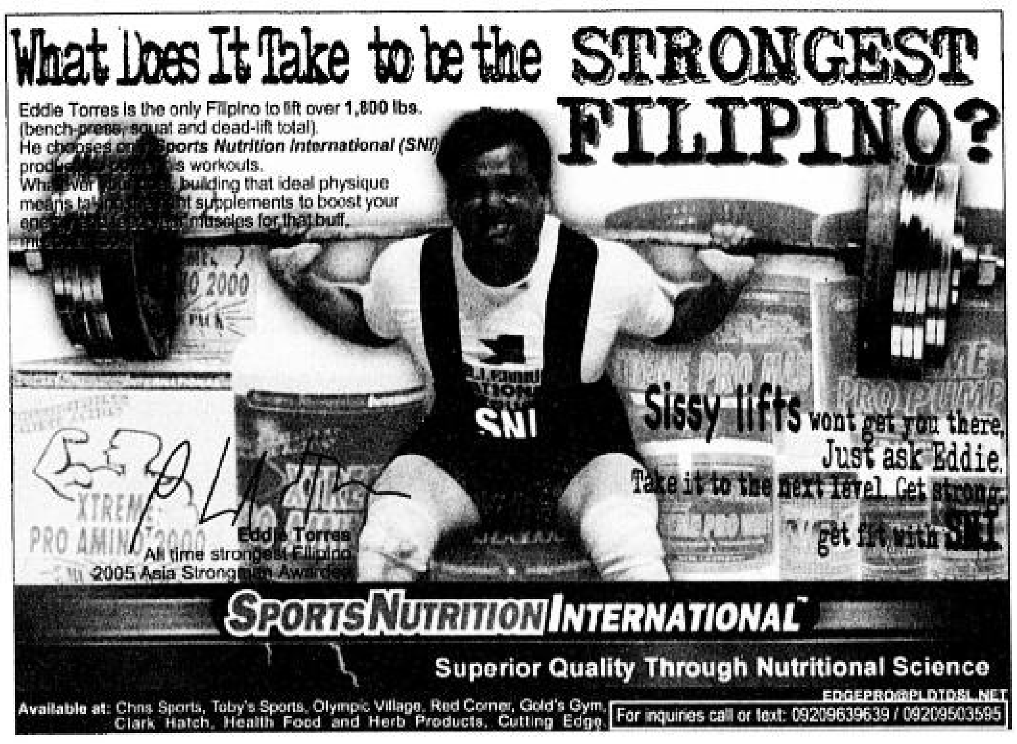
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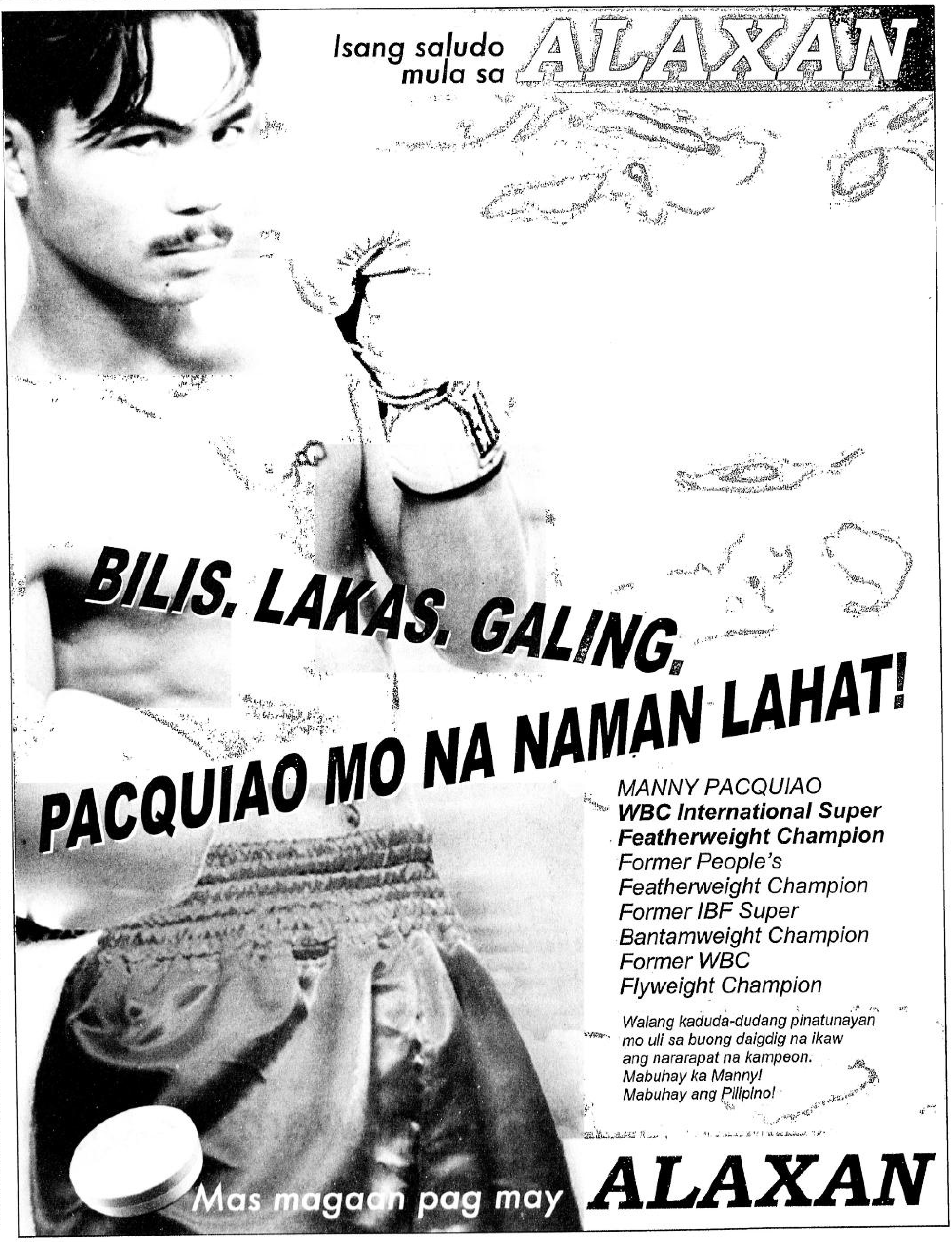
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Roddick tumbles out

Greek gives A-Rod the boot; Sharapova gains

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA—Andy Roddick tumbled out of the Australian Open on Sunday, losing 6-4, 1-6, 6-3, 6-4, to unseeded Marcos Baghdatis in the fourth round.

Roddick, the No. 2 seed, was unsettled by the high-energy Baghdatis, a 20-year-old former junior world champion from Cyprus.

After dropping just one service game in his three previous matches, Roddick was broken once in each of the first, third and fourth sets. Baghdatis had 16 aces, one more than Roddick, and only 26 unforced errors.

"I'm just in my own world and playing great tennis," Baghdatis said. "I think it's one of the best matches of my life."

Baghdatis, ranked 54th, advanced to a quarterfinal against the winner of Sunday's later match between No. 7 Ivan Ljubicic and No. 10 Thomas Johansson, the 2002 Australian Open champion.

It was a disappointing exit for Roddick, the American who had a shocking first-round loss in the US Open—the last Grand Slam event.

"I didn't play that badly—plus eight in winners to errors—I looked and I won more total points," said Roddick.

Earlier, top-ranked Lindsay Davenport set up a quarterfinal match with Justine Henin-Hardenne, overcoming left ankle pain to beat Svetlana Kuznetsova, 6-2, 6-4.

The eighth-seeded Henin-Hardenne beat Virginia Ruano Pascual, 6-0, 6-3.

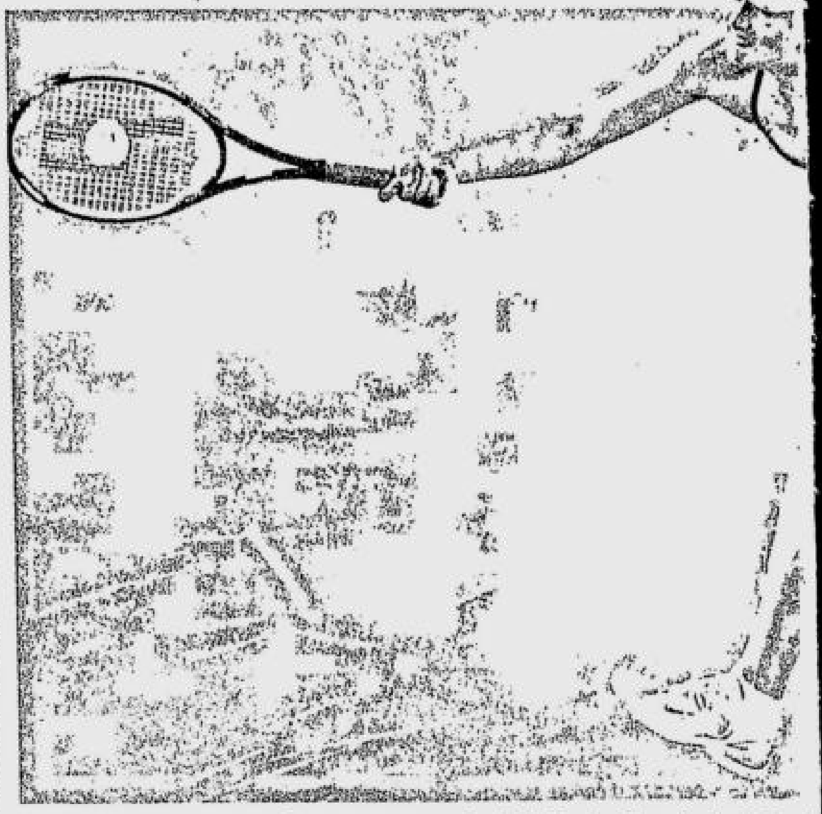
Fourth-seeded Maria Sharapova went down a break in the second set before recovering to win six of the last seven games in a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Daniela Hantuchova, who ousted defending champion Serena Williams in the third round.

Sharapova next faces fellow Russian Nadia Petrova, who beat Elena Vesnina 6-3, 6-1.

In men's matches, fourth-seeded David Nalbandian reached the quarterfinals, beating Tommy Robredo, 6-3, 6-0, 2-6, 6-2, and French veteran Fabrice Santoro overcame No. 11 David Ferrer, 6-4, 7-5, 7-5.

The 33-year-old Santoro reached the last eight at a Grand Slam for the first time in 54 trips.

With defending champion Marat Safin, second-ranked Rafael Nadal, four-time winner Andre Agassi out because of injuries and No. 3 Lleyton Hewitt ousted in the second round, Roddick was considered the top contender to topple favorite Roger Federer. *AP*



MARIA Sharapova stretches to return to Daniela Hantuchova in their fourt

FABRICE Santoro of France celebrates his fourth round win over David Ferrer of Spain in the Australian Open. AP

'Magician' makes long drought disappear

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA—FABRICE SANTORO sat at his courtside chair, buried his head in a towel and shed a few tears of joy.

Aged 33, and playing in his 54th Grand Slam, the genial Frenchman finally made it to the quarterfinals of a major.

He beat 11th-seeded David Ferrer of Spain, 6-4, 7-5, 7-5, Sunday in a fourth-round match at the Australian Open.

"At one point, it's great that it's coming so late," said Santoro, who played his first Grand Slam at the French Open in 1989. "I've been playing since I was 16, and when your first quarterfinal arrives at 33, it's a long time."

Best known for his doubles prowess—18 career titles and a pivotal win in France's 2001 Davis Cup title triumph—"The Magician," as Pete Sampras once described him because of his unique style, has always struggled in singles at Grand Slams.

He's lost in the first round of majors 21 times, the second round on 18 occasions, the third 11 and in the fourth round three times.

One of those fourth-round losses came at the 1999 Australian Open, the others at the 1991 and 2001 French Opens.

Still, he's finished 2005 ranked in the top 100 in singles for the 11th time in 13 years, and he has four career singles titles.

Santoro said Sunday's result might have been different if the hot temperatures hadn't forced the roof at Vodafone Arena to be closed. That gave the players shade and air conditioning instead of an unrelenting sun and furnace-like wind.

"If we played outdoors, I think my chances would have been very, very small," said Santoro.

"When I woke up this morning and I saw the temperature, I said 'OK, we're gonna play indoors,' and that it was maybe a sign."

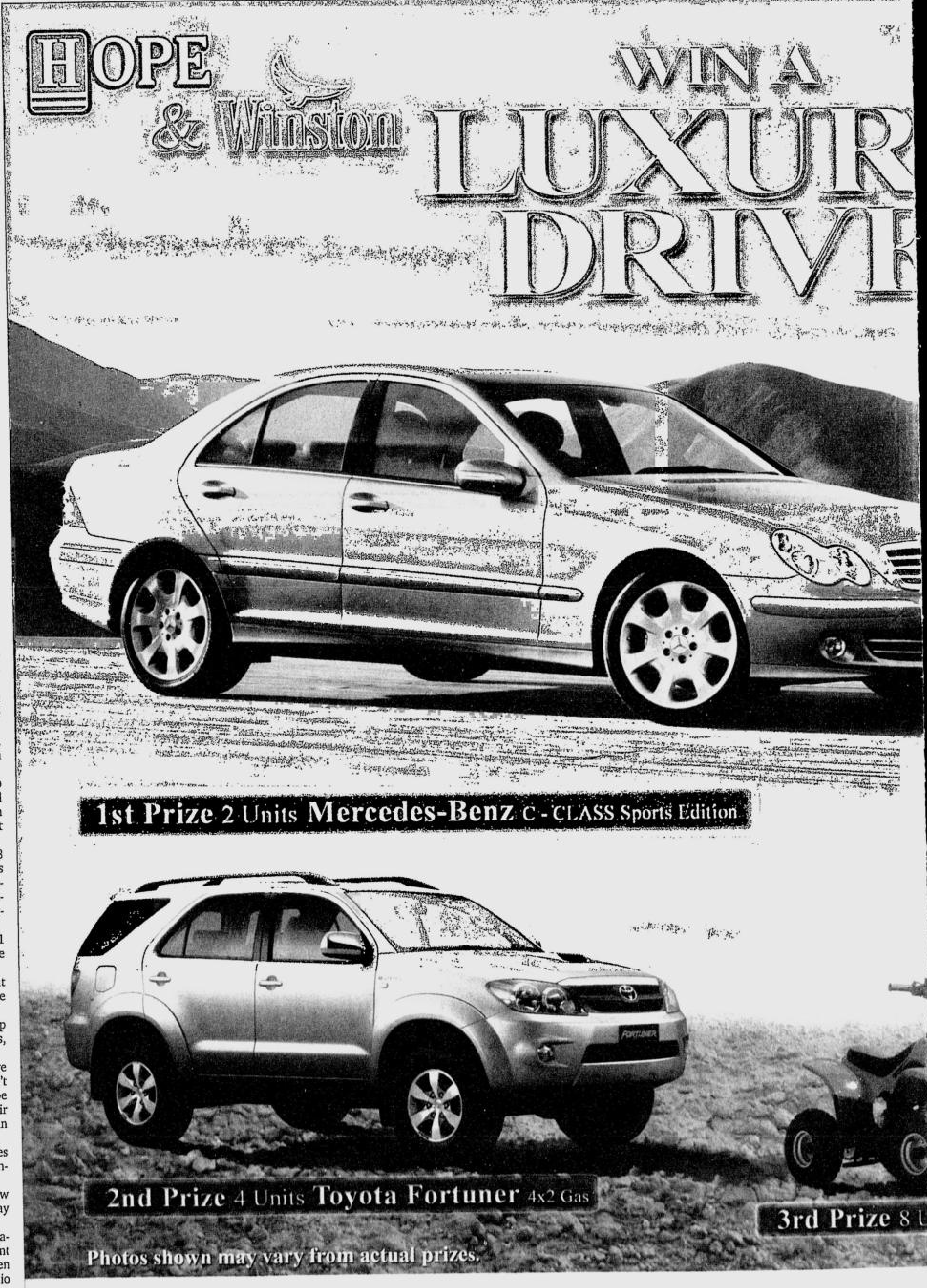
The signs have been good since the tournament began, with Santoro beating Vincent Spadea, Andrei Pavel, former French Open champion and eighth-seeded Gaston Gaudio and then 11th-seeded Ferrer.

Next up is fourth-seeded David Nalbandian, whom Santoro beat on clay in Rome last year in three sets.

"Phew, you have no time to rest," said Santoro. "Every opponent makes you run and I hope the temperature will be pretty high and we can play indoors."

Santoro said the reason for his success here is his recent change in style—attacking serves, coming into the net more and generally being more aggressive.

"I am still in the tournament because I'm coming into the net a lot," he said, crediting his doubles with making him more proficient at the front of the court. *AP*



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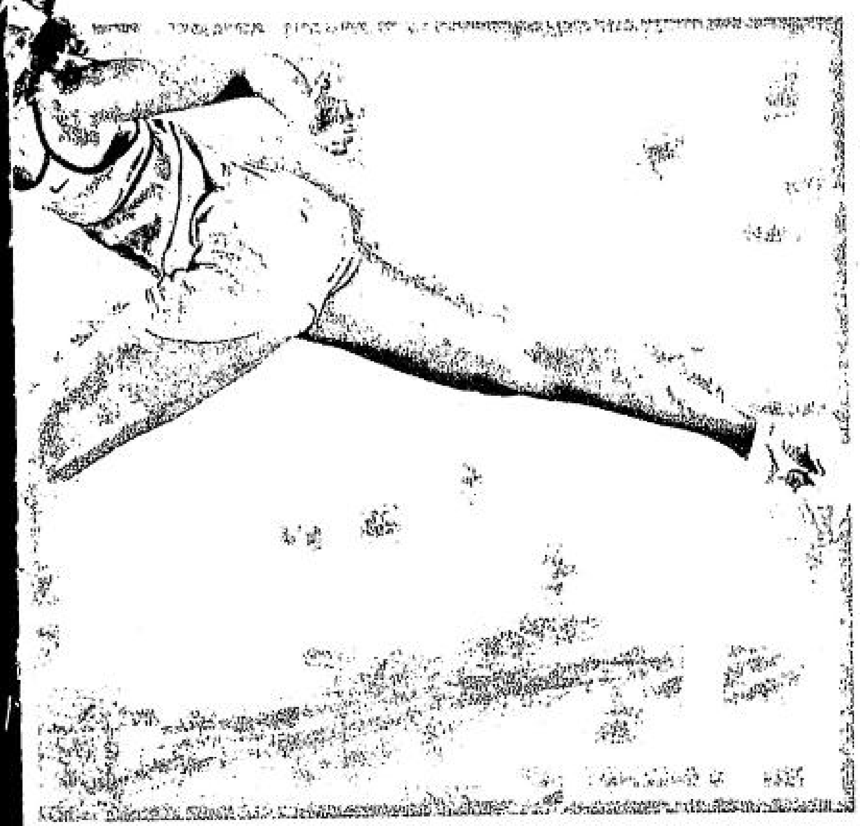

-round match.
AP

Campbell hangs onto Hope lead; Verplank narrows gap to 1 stroke

PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA—Chad Campbell's 5-under 67 was barely enough to keep him in front Saturday in the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic, with Scott Verplank's 64 moving him within one shot of the lead.

Campbell kept up his steady play, with six birdies and a lone bogey at the new Classic Club at Northstar to go to 24-under 264 through four days of the 90-hole tournament.

Verplank crafted his 8-under round at Bermuda Dunes Country Club, one of four courses used for the first four days of the tournament.

A pro-am for the first 72 holes, the 70 low-scoring pros and ties play the final round at the Classic Club.

John Senden was alone in third after a 67 at Bermuda Dunes left him at 20 under. Lurking another two shots back was two-time Hope champion Phil Mickelson.

Mickelson, the winner in 2002 and 2004, shot a 67 at Bermuda Dunes to go to 18 under, six strokes off the pace. Making his season debut in the Hope, Mickelson was tied for fourth with Justin Rose, who had a 66.

Mike Weir, who won the tournament in 2003, was another shot behind after a 66. Still another former Hope champion, 2000 winner Jesper Parnevik, vaulted into contention with a 10-under 62 at the Classic Course and was with Weir in a group at 17 under.

Rory Sabbatini and Jeff Maggert had 64s to join them at 271, along with Olin Browne (66) and John Huston (67).

Campbell birdied four holes on the front nine to make the turn at 32, but a bogey on No. 11 seemed to throw him off stride and he shot a 35 on the back nine. On the 11th, he hit a 6-iron long, then left himself a 15-footer for par and missed it for the bogey, only his second of the tournament.

Verplank, meanwhile, was whittling away at Campbell's lead.

He rolled in five birdie putts on the front nine to make the turn with a 31, then kept it going with birdies on the first two holes on the back side. With Campbell already finished for the day, Verplank sank a 3-foot birdie putt on No. 14 to go to 23 under, then bogeyed No. 17 when he hit into the bunker in front of the green and missed a 15-footer for par.

He got that stroke back when he chipped within a foot of the cup on No. 18.

Both Verplank and Campbell are trying to end winless strings. Verplank hasn't won since the 2001 Canadian Open, and Campbell is looking for his first victory since the 2004 Bay Hill Invitational. David Duval shot an 8-under 64 to go to 8 under for the tournament and make his second consecutive cut of the season. *AP*

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Jaca floors Mexican foe in 1st round

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA—PHILIPPINE SUPER featherweight champion Jimrex Jaca knocked out Mexican journeyman Geronimo Hernandez in the first round of their eight-round clash at the Thomas and Mack Center yesterday.

The 22-year-old Filipino southpaw from Sibulan, Negros Oriental floored Hernandez twice before referee Joe Cortez stopped the bout with 2:43 gone in the first round.

Jaca's ring debut in the US was in the undercard of the Manny Pacquiao-Erik Morales rematch.

"Jimrex has become an instant hit. He has received many offers to fight here," said Jaca's manager Rex "Wakee" Salud, who was at ringside.

A big left downed Hernandez midway through the opening round, and after Cortez tolled the count, Jaca went in for the kill, using another big left to down Hernandez for good.

After the fight, Filipino and Mexican fans immediately mobbed Jaca for photo ops at the Thomas and Mack Center. Later at the Wynn Hotel, he was again seen being greeted by the hotel's moneyed clientele.

"This was a far cry from the kid who used to fight for a living inside a military camp in Negros," said a boxing observer, citing Jaca's humble beginnings before he was discovered by Cebuano Anol Jaca, from whom he got his ring name.

Jimrex came from a combination of his real name Jimuel Divino and that of his manager Rex Salud.

The win improved Jaca's record to 25-1-1 with 12 KOs. Hernandez, 27, who was the third boxer tapped by promoters to fight Jaca, lost for the 15th time in 31 fights.

Before winning the RP super featherweight title, Jaca held the Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation super bantamweight crown. *Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor*

Manila Ice . . .

From page A26

and beating the technically superior Morales in his own game.

No, we can't call it an overhaul, because Pacquiao will always be Pacquiao, Roach explained.

So what's the name of the biggest ingredient behind their success?

No name, Roach explained.

All they had to do was learn from their biggest mistake the last time.

They no longer underestimated Morales, unlike the last time when Pacquiao had bragged he would overrun the Mexican great.

Pacquiao rediscovered humility and, just like this reporter with the *caldereta* by a strange name, was rewarded with bliss.

Lisogor breaks own swim mark

BERLIN—OLEG LISOGOR BROKE HIS own 50-meter breaststroke world record Saturday at a short course World Cup meet.

The Ukrainian, who turned 27 two days ago, swam 26.17 seconds at the Arena meet and lowered his old mark by .03. He set the previous mark on Jan. 26, 2002, in the same pool.

"It was time for a new world record after four years," Lisogor said. "I especially tapered for this event in Berlin and shaved my body—I simply wanted to swim a best time."

The two-day meet has drawn 109 medal winners from the Olympics, world or European championships, but a dozen swimmers missed Saturday's competition because weather conditions delayed their flights from Copenhagen.

The swimmers included record holders Jason Lezak, Therese Alshammer and Anna-Karin Kammerling. *AP*

James ends Cavs' road miseries with record

SALT LAKE CITY—LEBRON James scored 51 points, becoming the youngest player in NBA history with 5,000 in his career, and the Cleveland Cavaliers snapped a six-game losing streak with a 108-90 victory over the Utah Jazz on Saturday night.

James wasn't even sure he'd play Saturday because of a sore right knee he had X-rayed earlier in the day, but decided shortly before the game to see how it held up. It looked fine as James and the Cavaliers avoided going winless on a six-game road trip.

James, who turned 21 on Dec. 30, needed 45 points to pass Kobe Bryant as the youngest player to reach 5,000. Bryant was 22 when he scored his 5,000th point.

James left to a standing ovation with 1:35 remaining in the game and the Cavs won for the first time in two weeks since a 96-88 victory over the Bucks on Jan. 7.

In Indianapolis, Andres Nocioni scored 20 points and Tyson Chandler added 15 points and 14 rebounds for Chicago, which ripped the Indiana Pacers, 101-89.

Kirk Hinrich added 16 points and seven rebounds as the Bulls handed the Pacers their worst home loss of the season.

Stephen Jackson scored 21 points and reserve Austin Croshere added 16 for the Pacers, who lost for the second straight night and the third time in four games.

Indiana forward Jermaine O'Neal struggled in his return after missing three games with a sprained left ankle.

In Orlando, Florida, Steve Francis had 18 points and nine rebounds, and made four free throws in overtime as the Magic pipped the Sacramento Kings, 83-78.

Francis also made the basket that forced overtime on a layup with 21 seconds left in the fourth quarter.

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Vince Carter scored 25 points and Jacque Vaughn had a season-high 13 markers off the bench to help the Nets demolish the Boston Celtics, 103-83.

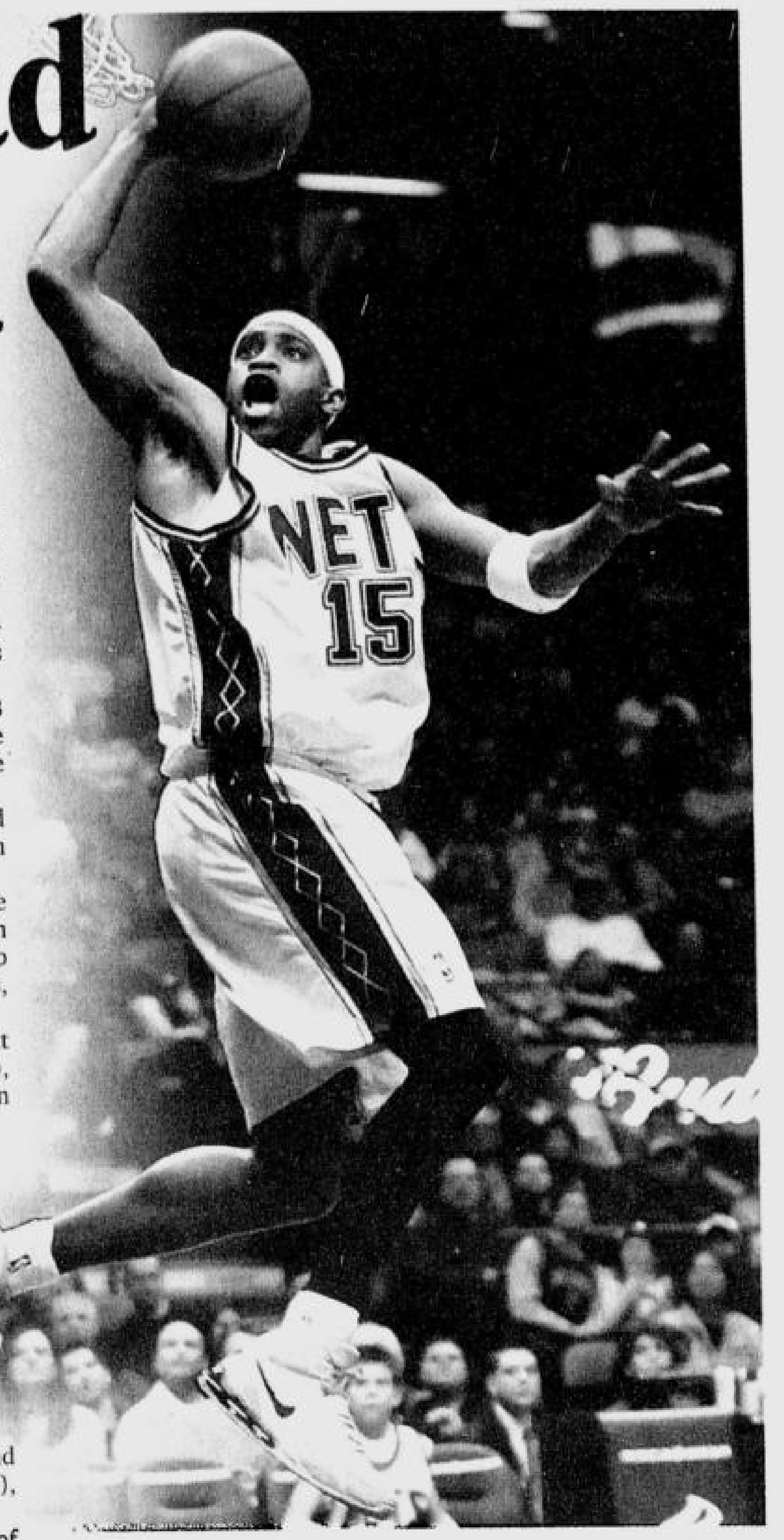
Nenad Krstic added 16 points and Scott Padgett scored 13 for New Jersey (22-16), which has won 13 of its last 17 games. Boston (16-24) lost for the sixth time in nine games.

Paul Pierce led Boston with 20 points. A night earlier in Boston, the Celtics shot 51 percent and held off a fourth-quarter Nets rally in a 99-96 win.

In New York, Chris Paul had 27 points, 13 assists and seven rebounds to lead the New Orleans Hornets past the Knicks, 109-98.

David West scored 19 points and Desmond Mason added 16 for the Hornets (20-20), who have won five of their last six games.

In Milwaukee, Michael Redd scored 23 of his 35 points in the second half to help the Bucks beat the Charlotte Bobcats, 101-91, to improve to 6-0 against Charlotte.


NEW Jersey Nets superstar Vince Carter goes airborne for a dunk against the Boston Celtics Saturday night. The Nets crushed the Boston Celtics, 103-83.

AP

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	7:30 AM - 7:40 AM	Landing Slot For Arriving/Leaving Airplanes
	7:40 AM - 8:40 AM	Ultra-Light Aircraft Formation Flying
	8:40 AM - 9:00 AM	Light Airplane Fly-By
	9:00 AM- 9:20 AM	Aviation Fire Fighting Demonstration
	9:20 AM -10:00 AM	RC Aircraft Exhibition
	10:00 AM -10:30 AM	Aerobatic Exhibition
	10:30 AM- 11:00 AM	Landing Slot For Arriving / Leaving Airplanes
	11:00 AM- 1:00 PM	Light Airplane Balloon Bursting Competition
	1:00 PM - 1:30 PM	Landing Slot For Arriving/Leaving Airplanes
	1:30 PM - 2:00 PM	Kite Flying Exhibition
	2:00 PM - 2:25 PM	X-Air Formation Flying
	2:25 PM - 3:00 PM	Hang Gliding Demonstration
	3:00 PM- 3:20 PM	Landing Slot For Arriving/Leaving Airplanes
	3:45 PM - 4:30 PM	RC Demonstration Flying
	4:30 PM - 5:20 PM	Airplane vs. Motorcycle Race
	5:20 PM - 6:00 PM	Hot Air Balloon Fly In
FEB 10, FRI - SECOND FIESTA	5:30 AM - 7:00 AM	Hot Air Balloon Flight
	7:00 AM- 7:30 AM	Sky Diving Exhibition
	7:40 AM - 8:30 AM	Ultralight Aircraft Fly-By
	8:30 AM - 9:15 AM	Private AC Airplane Fly-By
	9:15 AM - 9:40 AM	Aerobatic Show
	9:40 AM- 10:10AM	Landing Slot For Arriving/Departing Airplanes
	10:10 AM -11:00 AM	Radio Control Aircraft Flying
	11:00 AM -11:30 AM	Sky Diving Exhibition
	11:30 AM- 12:00 PM	Ultra-Light Airplane Bomb Dropping
	12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Choreographed Kite Flying Exhibition
	1:00 PM - 1:15 PM	Landing Slot For Arriving/Leaving Airplanes
	1:15 PM -: 2:15 PM	Radio Control Aircraft Exhibition
	2:15 PM - 3:00 PM	Aerobatic Show
	3:00 PM - 5:00 PM	AOPA-AFFC Regional Meeting
	3:15 PM - 3:45 PM	Military Jeep Organization Show
	3:45 PM - 4:00 PM	Landing Slot For Arriving/Leaving
	4:00 PM - 4:30 PM	Airplane vs. Car Race By Total
	4:30 PM - 5:15 PM	Hang Gliding Exhibition
	5:15 PM - 5:30 PM	Landing Slot For Arriving/Leaving Airplanes
	5:30 PM - 6:00 PM	Hot Air Balloon Flights
	7:45 PM - 8:30 PM	Hot Air Balloon Night Glow
	7:45 PM - 11:00 PM	ABS-CBN Disco On The Field
FEB 11, SAT - THIRD FIESTA DAY	5:30 AM - 7:00 AM	Hot Air Balloon Flight
	7:00 AM - 7:30 AM	Sky Diving Exhibition
	7:30 AM - 8:20 AM	Ultra-Light Aircraft Fly-By
	8:20 AM - 8:40 AM	Aerobatic Exhibition
	8:40 AM - 9:30 AM	Departure For Vigan Fly In
	9:30 AM - 10:00 AM	Helicopter Flying Exhibition
	10:00 AM -10:30 AM	Aviation Fire Fighting Demonstration
	10:30 AM -11:00 AM	Missionary Heliostol Aircraft Demo
	11:00 AM -12:45 PM	M&M's Light Airplane Balloon Bursting Competition
	12:45 PM- 1:30 PM	Choreographed Kite Flying Demonstration
	1:30 PM- 2:00 PM	Ultra-Light Flying Display
	2:00 PM- 2:30 PM	Landing Slot For Arriving/Leaving Airplanes
	2:30 PM- 3:15 PM	Landing Of Airplanes From Vigan
	3:15 PM - 3:45 PM	Sky Diving Exhibition
	4:00 PM - 4:45 PM	Poster-Making Competition Judging
	3:45 PM - 4:30 PM	Aerobatic Display
	4:30 PM - 5:00 PM	Motorized Paraglider
	5:00 PM - 5:30 PM	Hang Gliding Demo
	5:30 PM - 5:45 PM	RC Airplane Flying Demonstration
	5:45 PM - 6:15 PM	Hot Air Balloon Flight
	6:45 PM - 7:30 PM	Hot Air Balloon Night Glow
	7:45PM - 11:00PM	ABS-CBN Live Concert On The Field
FEB 12, SUN - LAST FIESTA DAY	5:30 AM- 7:00 AM	Hot Air Balloon Flight
	7:00 AM- 7:30 AM	Sky- Diving Exhibition
	7:30-AM- 8:30 AM	Ultra-Light Aircraft Fly-by
	8:30 AM- 9:00 AM	Aerobatic Exhibition.
	9:00 AM -9:30 AM	Airplane Fly By
	9:30 AM-10:00 AM	Missionary Helio- Stol Aircraft Demo
	10:00 AM-10:30 AM	Helicopter Rescue Exhibition
	10:30 AM-11:00 AM	Sky Diving Exhibition
	11:00 AM - 11:10 AM	Landing Slot For Arriving/Departing Airplanes
	11:10 AM -12:30 PM	M&M's Light Airplane Balloon Bursting Competition
	12:30 PM- 1:30 PM	Choreographed Kite Flying Demonstration
	1:30 PM- 2:00 PM	Ultra-Light Flour Bombing Competition
	2:00 PM - 2:30 PM	Hang Gliding Demonstration
	2:30 PM- 3:00 PM	RC Airplane Flying Demonstration
	3:00 PM- 3:20PM	Aerobatic Exhibition
	3:20 PM- 4:00 PM	Airplane Fly-By
	4:00 PM- 5:00 PM	Total Airplane vs. Sports Car Race
	5:00 PM - 5:30 PM	Landing Slot For Arriving/Departing Airplanes
	5:30 PM- 6:45 PM	Hot Air Balloon Flight
	7:30 PM-	Crew And Award Night Party

Heat struggling to meet their own expectations

MIAMI—JUST LIKE LAST YEAR, THE Miami Heat will lead the Southeast Division at the season's midpoint and seem on the way to securing a lofty seed for the Eastern Conference playoffs.

The list of similarities between this season and last essentially end right there for the Heat.

Yes, they're in first place by a comfortable margin and entered Saturday with the sixth-best record in the league. But a 23-17 mark after 40 games isn't what the Heat envisioned coming into this season, certainly not with a team that entered the year saying its lone goal was to win the NBA championship.

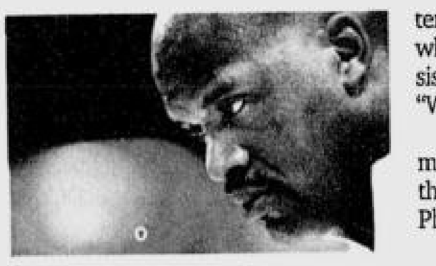
"I don't know why we're losing," Heat forward Udonis Haslem said. "We'll get it right. We've just got to keep working."

Miami reaches the halfway mark of the regular season on Sunday, when it hosts Sacramento. The Heat are already six victories behind last year's pace, and needs to go 36-6 down the stretch if they plan to match the 59-win regular season of a year ago.

There is no sense of panic.

No overwhelming sense of confidence, either.

"We're having too many fundamental mistakes," Shaquille O'Neal said.


O'NEAL: Looks mortal REUTERS

"We need to learn how to overcome those."

O'Neal is averaging career lows in virtually every statistical category, including scoring (18.5), field-goal percentage (.546), free-throw percentage (.442), rebounds (9.3), assists (1.3), blocked shots (1.45) and minutes per game (28.5), and is matching a career high by averaging 4.0 fouls per game.

There are only seven other players in the NBA averaging both as many points and rebounds as O'Neal—but more is always expected from the man who made $27.7 million last season, will make $100 million over the next five years and finished second in the MVP balloting a year ago.

But while O'Neal looks mortal, Dwyane Wade insists that the Heat still have plenty of time to get rolling.

"In this league, you know, you lose games, you come in and you get better," said Wade, the third-year guard who's averaging 26.9 points, 6.9 assists and 6.2 rebounds this season. "We've got 42 games left."

There's four teams that clearly make up the NBA's upper echelon to this point: Detroit, San Antonio, Phoenix and Dallas.

The Heat is 0-5 against that foursome this season, including Friday's 101-94 home loss to the Spurs. And against the teams that had records better than .500 entering Saturday's games, Miami is a measly 6-14.

How does Heat coach Pat Riley feel about that stat?

"I don't care," he said.

"We can get beat by the worst team in the league and we can beat the best team," Riley eventually continued. "But there's going to be a time when we're going to have to beat them all."

The Heat is 10 1/2 games behind Detroit in the race for the top seed in the Eastern Conference playoffs; to put that gap in perspective, entering Saturday, the top eight teams in the West were separated by 10 1/2 games.

Still, if the season had ended after Friday's games, Miami would be the No. 2 seed in the East—yet with a record only four games better than eighth-seeded Washington. AP

Miñoza finishes joint fourth; Pagunsan stumbles with 76

FILIPINO FRANKIE MIÑOZA closed out with a flawless seven-under-par 65 yesterday to finish in a tie for fourth place with Malaysian Iain Steel in the $200,000 Pakistan Open won in runaway fashion by Briton Chris Rodgers at the Karachi Golf Club.

The revered former winner of the Asian Tour's Order of Merit strung up five straight birdies from the 13th to climb from 26th spot and become the best Filipino finisher after Juvic Pagunsan stumbled with a 76 to finish joint 36th in his first professional event.

Miñoza, who finished in 27th spot in last year's OOM with earnings of close to $123,000, played the final two rounds at 10-under after opening with a 72 and a 73.

Felix "Cassius" Casas shot his third straight sub-par round, a 69, and wound up in a 21st place tie with Britain's Richard Moir at 284. Moir shot a 71.

Pagunsan, the former amateur hotshot, had just one birdie against five bogeys, two of them coming on par-5 holes as he failed to sustain a fiery form in the first three rounds which cost him a lot of money in the end.

Angelo Que, the 2004 Carlsberg Masters Vietnam winner, also had a tough time, skying to a final round 79 that pulled him down to a 48th place finish. Que, who teed off tied with Minoza in 26th spot, closed out with bogeys on the 16th and 17th holes and his second double bogey for the round on the 18th.

Antonio Lascuña and Gerald Rosales tied for 43rd along with Aussie Glenn Joyner and Shahid Javid Khan at three-over 291 after rounds of 71 and 70, respectively.

The 29-year-old Rodgers failed to crack 70 for the first time in four days, settling for a level 72 for a 15-under 273 total and a four-stroke victory over India's Jeev Milkha Singh and Amandeep Johl. Singh and Johl carded identical 69s.

Hometown bet Muhammed Munir, tied for second with Marl Mouland at the start of the day, dropped into a tie for fourth with Miñoza and Steel after a closing 75 that featured three straight bogeys from the 11th.

European Tour veteran Mouland of Wales was even worse, shooting a 78 to finish a notch out of the Top 10 at 282.

Ashok Kumar of India shot a 72 and Germany's Jochen Lupprian carded a 70 for seventh place at 280.

A total of seven Filipinos made the halfway cut here with only Jherome Delariarte and Cookie La'O failing to advance.

Lakeshore nat'l triathlon lures big names

THE BIGGEST NAMES IN THE LOCAL triathlon scene, including the Filipino medalists in last year's Southeast Asian Games, are taking part in the Lakeshore-National Triathlon championship on Feb. 5.

A total of P134,000 in prize money is up for grabs as titles in two centerpiece events—the 750-m swim, 20-K road cycling, 5k run and the Olympic distance of 1.5 k swim, 40 k bike, 10 k run—will be disputed.

Close to 300 triathletes led by SEAG silver medalist and defending champion Sandra Araullo and bronze medalist Arland Macasieb have already signed up for the event supported by the provincial government of Pampanga.

Other notables in the field are veterans Ani De Leon, Noel Salvador, Gerrie Calinawan and the up-and-coming Mikki Quilala, Mimi Lucas, LC Langit, Joash Serrano, and Kim Mangrobang.

The organizing Triathlon Association of the Philippines (Trap) will be using the championship to start its preparations for the Asian Games in Doha, Qatar, in December.

Entry forms are available at the Trap office at Unit 1603 Cityland Tower, H.V. Dela Costa Street, Makati; the POC office at the Rizal Memorial Complex; and Speedo stores in Alabang Town Center, SM Megamall, The Podium, and Glorietta 4.

MABUHAY MILES MASTERS

Top business executives Lucio "Bong" Tan Jr. and Stewart Go nail the major prizes in the recent Mabuhay Miles Elite Invitational golf tournament at the Riviera Golf and Country Club. Tan (left picture) won the low gross title while Go (center in right panel) receives his trophy as overall net champion from Philippine Airlines president Jaime J. Bautista, as executive vice president Henry So Uy looks on. The two executives beat a field of over 300 players, all Elite and Premier Elite members of the airline's Mabuhay Miles frequent flyer program. Tan scored a three-over-par 74 while Go finished with a net 68.

Eala, coaches of 4 semifinalists in Forum

PHILIPPINE BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION (PBA) COMMISSIONER NOLI EALA and the four coaches of the teams that made the semifinals of the San Mig Coffee Fiesta Conference are the special guests in tomorrow's session of the PSA Forum at the main function room of the Pantalan Restaurant in Manila. Eala will be joined by Red Bull's Yeng Guiao, Barangay Ginebra's Siot Tanquingcen, Ryan Gregorio of Purefoods and Air21's Bo Perasol in the public sports program aired over Sports Radio 918 and sponsored by Red Bull, Supermax, Circure, Pagcor and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza. PBA chair Ely Capacio has also been invited to the forum that begins at 10:30 a.m.

PCAP derby today at Makati venue

SIXTY-FIVE FIGHTS ARE ON TAP IN THE PINOY COCKERS ASSOCIATION OF the Philippines (PCAP) 5-cock derby which gets going today at the Makati Coliseum with B-Meg Derby Ace Premium Formula as sponsor. Girding up for battles are Efren Canlas, Philip Chiongbian, Edmund Yasay, Matt Bitanga, Col. Necy Katigbak, Jet and Joel Fernando, Bobby Doromal, John Capinpin, the Madlambayan Brothers, Ellan Nagano, Jun Soriano, Tata Booc, Vice Gov. Boyet Joson, Jake Macasaet, Emil Chua, Rey Briones, Pepito Ngo, Gov. Ito Ynares, Ram Lopez, Louie Cua, Butchoy Olano, William Co, Ranier Kau and Ric de Guzman. Up next at the venue is a 3-cock event on Jan. 23, with a cash pot of P200,000. Entry fee is P5,500. For inquiries, call 896-3545 or 895-6475.

Treat sports well

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

(PACQUIAO DID US PROUD. Even though I have walked away from boxing because deaths and injuries are in its roots, I still have good words for gutsy Manny Pacquiao who pounded out a dramatic 10th round stoppage of Mexican fighter Erik Morales in their 12-round bout in Las Vegas yesterday. Indeed, within 10 years after turning pro, he has not only emerged as the most skillful Filipino boxer in recent ring history, but he has also become one of the country's most popular and colorful citizens. Mabuhay ka Manny! Mabuhay ang Pilipinas!)

* * *

I AGREE with an in-depth study made some years back by the Philippine Olympic Committee then chaired by the late Gov. Jose Sering that "sports development is the primary responsibility of government. The State, therefore, stands as the most significant entity that would give sports the needed boost." There is no question about that.

As embodied in Article XIV, Section 19 of the Philippine Constitution, "The State shall promote physical education and encourage sports programs, league competitions, and amateur sports, including training for international competitions, to foster self-discipline, teamwork, and excellence for the development of a healthy and alert citizenry."

That is why I found it totally incomprehensible to learn that while the other departments in the government like defense, finance, foreign affairs and education would be receiving huge outlays from Congress in the proposed 2006 national budget of P1.03 trillion, the Philippine Sports Commission would only be getting a meager appropriation of P28 million. This is appalling considering that only last month our gritty athletes secured the overall crown of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games. Where is fairness and justice here? Where is just reward for a job well done? Congress should give something in return to our athletes who emerged SEA Games champions despite not having enough money to spend for their training.

As I have said before, that stingy allocation would not even be enough to defray the expenses for some events which the PSC has lined up in preparation for the 15th Asian Games in Doha. Qatar, Dec. 1-15 and the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, China. For instance, the PSC is set to revive the Philippine National Games (PNG) in November to serve as a final tune-up for the national athletes who will see action in the Doha Asiad.

On the meager budget of P28 million approved by the Senate last week, PSC chair William "Butch" Ramirez said he would "make do with what they approved," adding he failed to convince the Senate to at least retain the previous allocation of P70 million.

* * *

MORE ON THE ASIAD. From a respectable 14 gold-medal harvest in the Asian Games in Manila in 1954, the country's medal performance dipped in succeeding Asiads. In 1958 in Tokyo, the Philippines won nine golds while in 1962 in Jakarta, the Filipinos won only seven. It was also in Jakarta where the Filipinos, the perennial Asian Games basketball champions, held the cage title for the last time. But the Asiad produced new sporting legends, including the irrepressible Mona Sulaiman in track and field where she rewrote the Asian Games records in both the 100-meter and 200-meter dashes to become Asia's fastest woman. In the 1966 Asiad in Bangkok, the Philippines won only two golds through Josephine de la Viña, who ruled the discus throw and boxer Rodolfo Arpon. In the 1970 Asiad, also held in Bangkok, only boxer Ricardo Fortaleza bagged the gold.

The Filipinos were shut out from the gold-medal race in the 1974 Tehran Games, the first time since 1951 when the Philippines took part in the inaugural Asiad in New Delhi where the Filipinos won five golds. Athletics has not won a gold medal in the Asiad since 1966, but Lydia de Vega, the legendary sprinter from Meycauayan, Bulacan, broke the spell by topping the 100-meter dash in 1982 in New Delhi. She repeated the amazing feat in 1986 in Seoul. Boxer Robert Jalnaiz won the lone gold in 1990 in Beijing while three other pugs, Mansueto "Onyok" Velasco, Elias Recaido and Reynaldo Galido, captured three golds in 1994 in Hiroshima.

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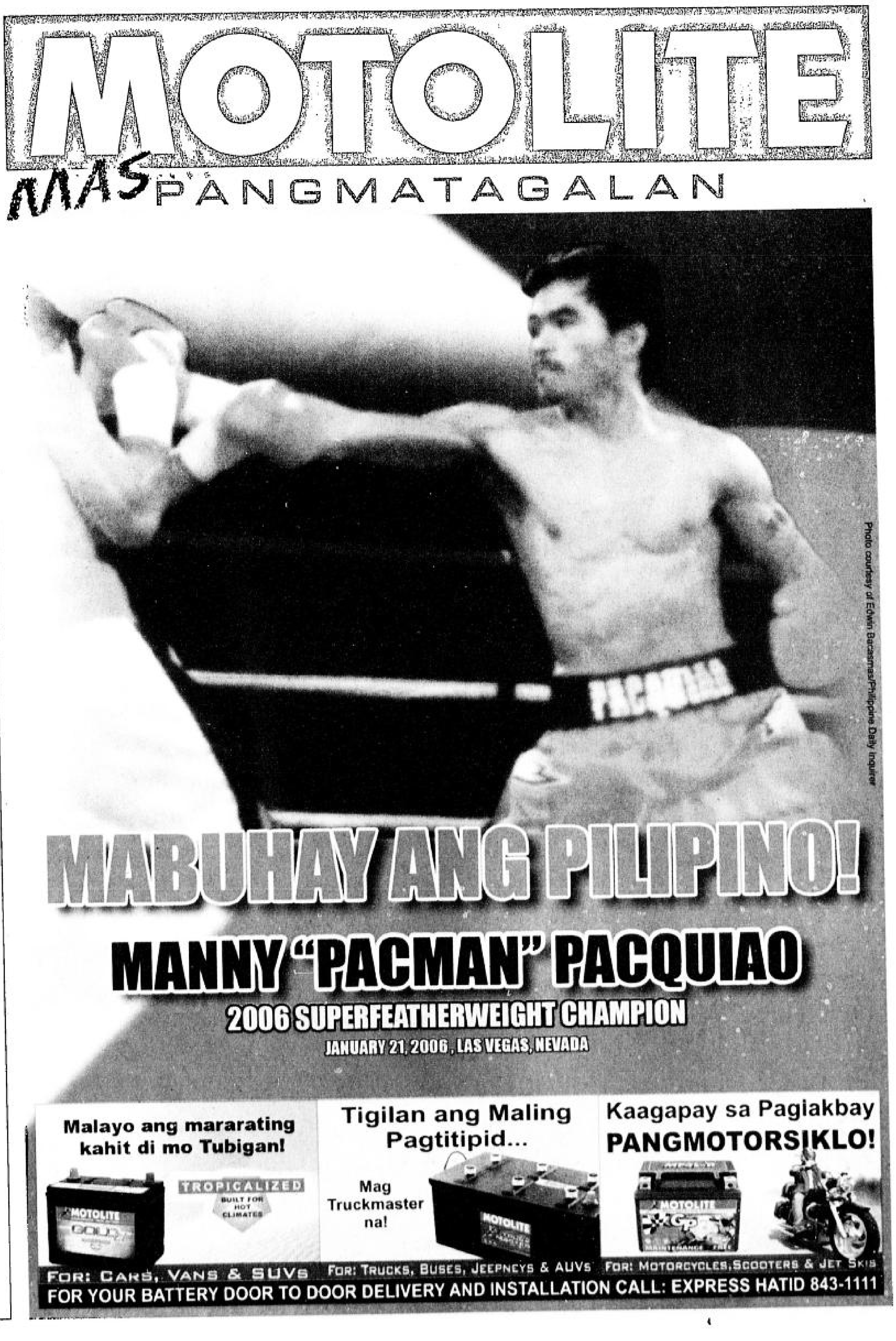
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RP hosts 'historic' jazz & arts festival

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

FILIPINOS ARE AMONG the world's best jazz exponents, says renowned jazz artist Kevyn Lettau, and it's about time more Filipinos knew about it.

Lettau told the INQUIRER that it was with this in mind that she had jumped at the chance to participate in the first Philippine International Jazz and Arts Festival spearheaded by the Philippine Jazz Society (PJS).

"Jazz artists here are not appreciated enough," Lettau said, "[I'd like] to help raise awareness among Filipinos that there are really good artists here."

Lettau said jazz as a music form has not been as appreciated as it should be, either, not only in the Philippines, but elsewhere in the world, because of lack of exposure to the music, plus a generation gap between those who

RP/ A2-6

ALESSANDRA de Rossi: "Nothing to it."

How to be a maid

By Nini Valera

FOR ALESSANDRA De Rossi, being a maid is easy.

"There's nothing to it," said the 22-year-old actress. "What's there to learn about being a maid? You sweep, iron clothes, cook food. That's it."

Which is why, instead of researching for her role in director Kelvin Tong's "The Maid" by talking to the Filipino maids in Singapore, where the film was shot, De Rossi went malling.

"One thing I know, maids in Singapore work hard and sacrifice a lot," said De Rossi.

She did not know, however, that most of those Filipino maids have college degrees and left their own children to care for other people's kids.

"The Maid" is De Rossi's first outing in a foreign-made movie, which was partly financed by filmmaker Tikoy Aguiluz along with MediaCorp Raintree Pictures. It cost $1.5 million to produce.

Ghost fiesta

De Rossi's character, Rosa Dimaano, arrives in the Teo household in Singapore on the first day of the seventh month of the Chinese calendar, known as the Hungry Ghost Festival.

For 30 days, ghosts supposedly roam the earth and play tricks on mortals. So they won't be outwitted by the visiting dead, the living have to follow certain rules of behavior. For instance, they should not eat certain foods, go swimming, sweep burning ashes or talk to strangers in dark alleys.

Rosa breaks some of the rules unknowingly and and her life turns into a nightmare.

The movie ran in Singapore last August for three weeks and was a hit, De Rossi said. "I hope it will also be a hit here," she added.

It opens Jan. 25 in local theaters.

Manny Valera, De Rossi's manager, said the actress earned more than double her local rate for doing the role.

Not bad for a maid.

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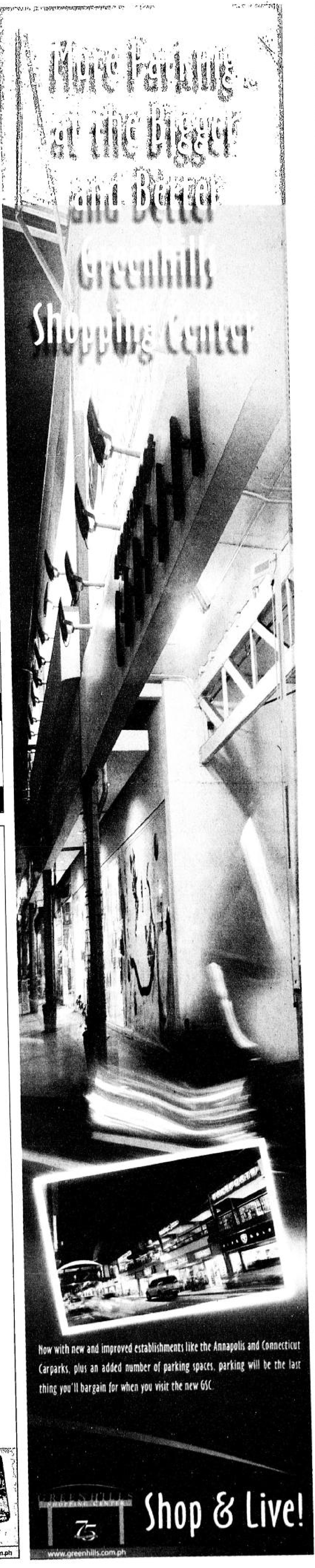
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DID YOU KNOW... FOR "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" to get to the Sundance Film Festival in Utah, the plane fares of scriptwriter Michiko Yamamoto and producer Raymond Lee were paid by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. Festival organizers bought director Auraeus Solito's ticket.

ROUNDUP

Awit Pinoy Competition

PERCIVAL Chavez, left, chair of the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor, awards a certificate and check to Mila Minerva G. Mabanay, chorale mentor of the General Pio del Pilar High School, for winning the Awit Pinoy Competition held at the Bureau of Soils and Management auditorium. The competition was part of the celebration of the 18th Urban Poor Solidarity Week with the theme "Maralitang Tagalungson: Pasulong sa Matatag na Republika."

Forgetting Jen

PARK CITY, Utah—Filmmaker Nicole Holofcener warned the Sundance Film Festival crowd she was nervous.

And she proved it in remarks that preceded the premiere of her film "Friends With Money," forgetting to introduce her quartet of stars—Jennifer Aniston, Frances McDormand, Catherine Keener and Joan Cusack.

"Friends With Money" opened the festival to a packed theater Thursday night, with Sundance Institute founder Robert Redford and festival director Geoffrey Gilmore offering remarks before Holofcener came up.

ANISTON

Holofcener thanked many others on the film, executives at distributor Sony Pictures Classics, her casting director and editor, the male co-stars, including Jason Isaacs, Scott Caan, Simon McBurney and Greg Germann.

Then she started to leave, only rushing back to the podium after Gilmore reminded her she had neglected to mention the lead actresses. *AP*

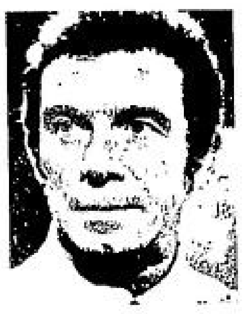
Outstanding Asians

LOS ANGELES—"Kung Fu Hustle" was named Outstanding Film and Daniel Dae Kim and Yunjin Kim, who star on the hit TV show "Lost," were honored for Outstanding Male and Female Television Performance at the 2006 Asian Excellence Awards.

Other winners Thursday included Stephen Chow for Outstanding Film Performance in "Kung Fu Hustle" and Lynn Chen, who won Outstanding Newcomer for her performance in the film "Saving Face."

"Kung Fu Hustle" beat "Memoirs of a Geisha," "Saving Face" and "2046."

The awards celebrate achievement in the arts and entertainment and individual contributions in advancing the profile of the Asian American community. *AP*



FRANCIOSA

Anthony Franciosa, 77

LOS ANGELES—Anthony Franciosa, whose strong portrayals of moody, troubled characters made him a Hollywood star in the 1950s and 1960s but whose combative behavior on movie sets hampered his career, has died, his publicist said Friday. He was 77.

Franciosa died Thursday at UCLA Medical Center after suffering a massive stroke, publicist Dick Guttman said. *AP*

'Geisha' ban

SHANGHAI—Hollywood's "Memoirs of a Geisha" has China censors stumped. Officials and state press say the film may be banned due to concerns it could rouse anti-Japanese sentiments.

Several state newspapers reported that the movie was scheduled for general release on Feb. 19 but had now been scrapped.

The main issue is that two leading actresses who play geishas are Chinese, which could evoke memories of Japanese wartime aggression towards mainland women.

Reports said that China's strict state censors initially approved the film but then changed their minds fearing they would attract a barrage of public criticism.

But regardless of whether the film is officially approved, Chinese audiences will undoubtedly be able to watch it, as pirated DVD copies are already widely available. *AFP*

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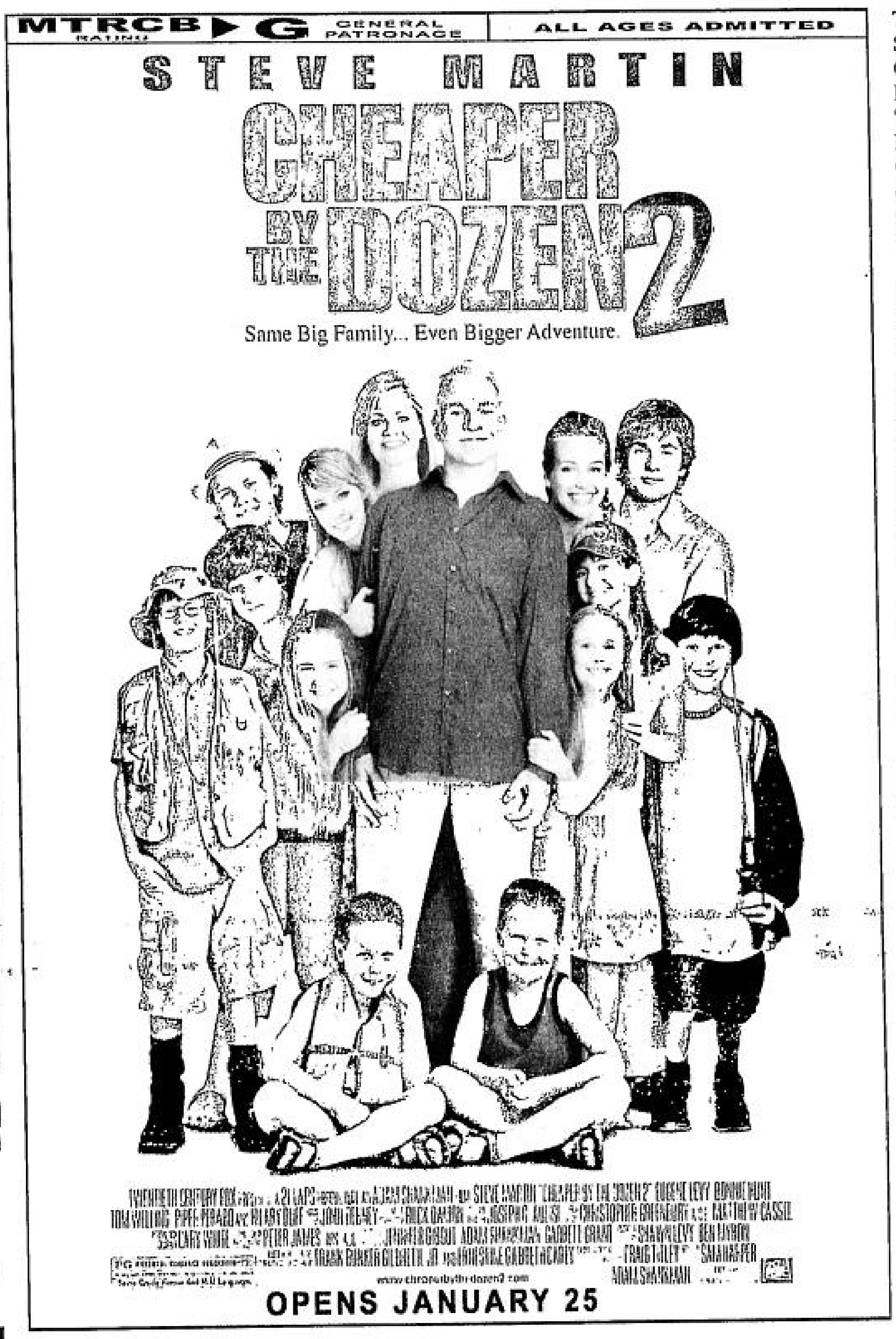

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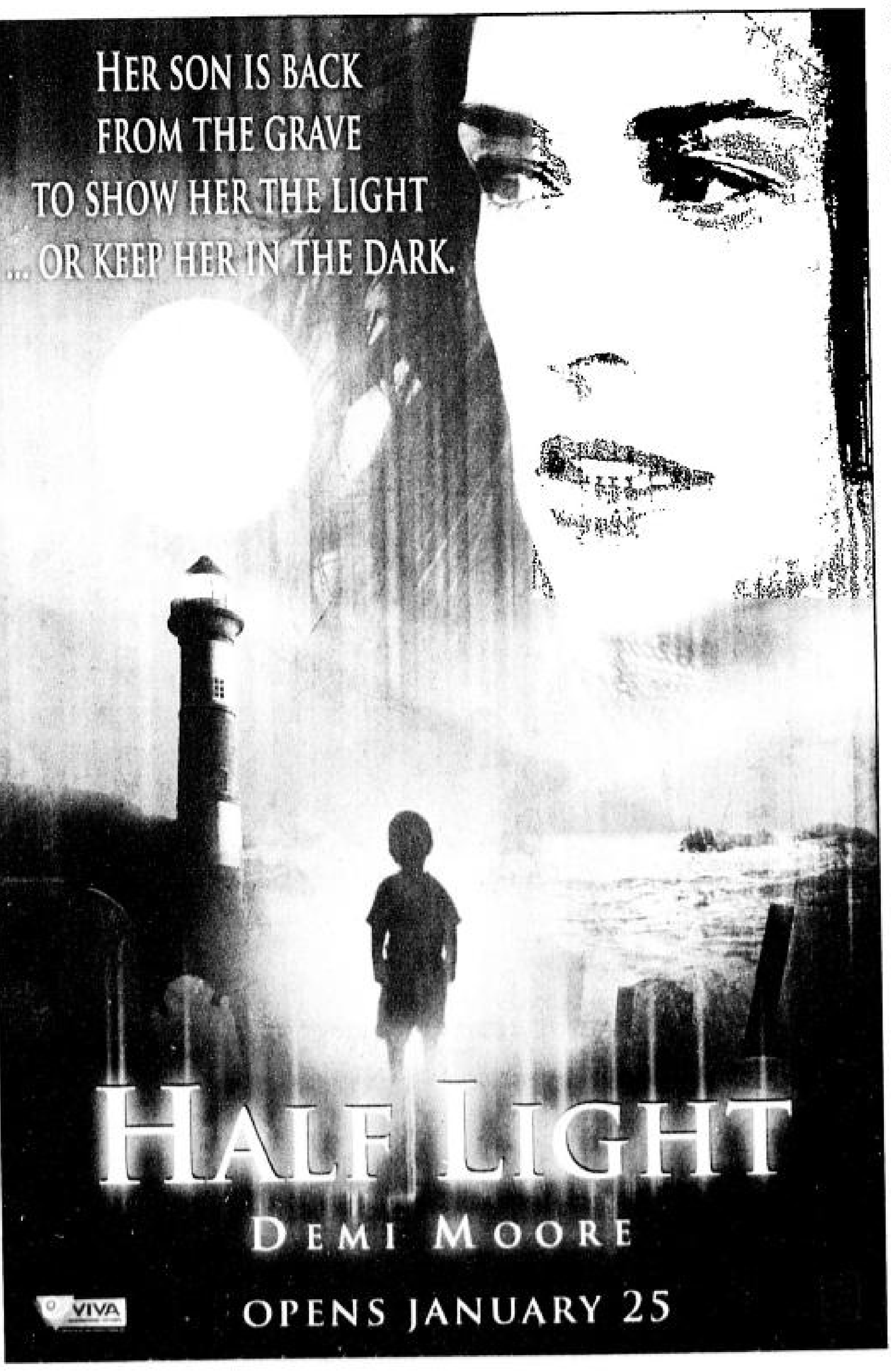

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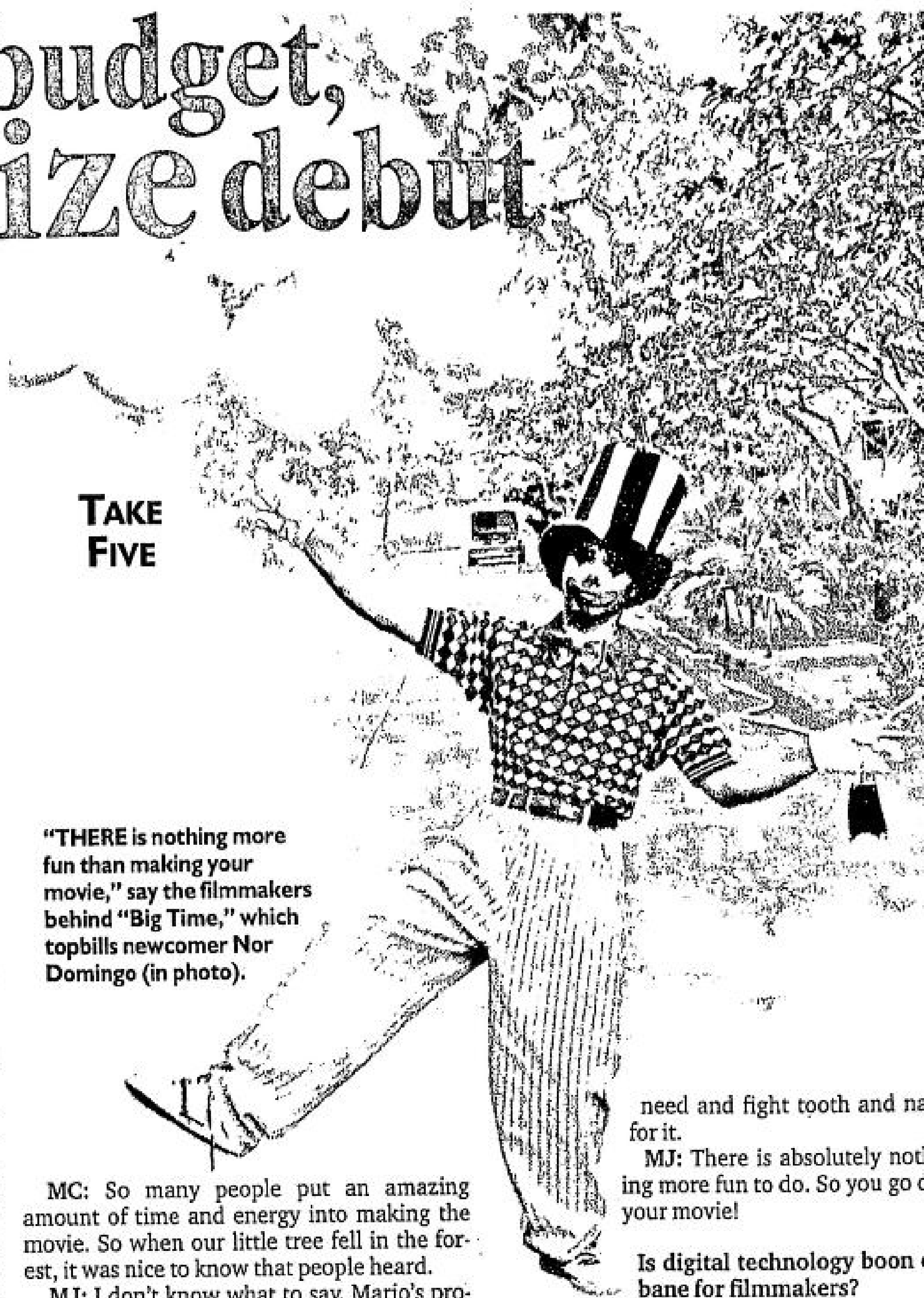
Minimal budget, supersize debut

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

TAKE FIVE



"THERE is nothing more fun than making your movie," say the filmmakers behind "Big Time," which topbills newcomer Nor Domingo (in photo).

IN SPITE OF A MINUSCULE BUDGET, INDIE filmmakers Mario Cornejo and Monster Jimenez "supersized" their debut, "Big Time," with wry humor and a barrage of pop culture references (take note of the Choc Nut poster).

The ultra-hip, frenetic filmmaking style paid off—big time. After winning Best Screenplay and Best Sound in the Cinemalaya film festival, it merited an A from the Cinema Evaluation Board.

Jimenez's Arkeofilms is distributing "Big Time," opening on Jan. 25 at select SM Cinemas.

In a joint e-mail to INQUIRER Entertainment, Cornejo and Jimenez made it clear that they do everything together. "We wrote the movie, did all the pre-prod, shooting and post-production side-by-side and consulted one another on all creative issues. We functioned much like the Coen brothers ... the delineation between producer and director is almost arbitrary."

It was in this spirit, they explained, that they "answered the questions together."

What challenges have you encountered in self-distribution?

MJ: Tons. It's one thing to make a movie and another thing to sell it. There's the technical aspect—making sure that the movie projects well and plays without hitches. We went back to post again and improved on it. We regraded and enhanced the sound design. That was the fun part. The sucky part is marketing. Thankfully, SM is giving us media and publicity support. We also have some volunteers helping us to spread the word.

MC: Self-distributing means doing things on your own, without a big entity—like Regal, Viva or Star Cinema—to help us. But what's great is that we're not completely alone. People have been offering us a lot of support. Without SM's new digital cinemas, for example, we can't show our movie to a lot of people. There are also countless friends and even strangers who've helped us.

How did it feel to win awards at Cinemalaya and earning an A from the CEB?

MC: So many people put an amazing amount of time and energy into making the movie. So when our little tree fell in the forest, it was nice to know that people heard.

MJ: I don't know what to say. Mario's profundity moves and disturbs me at the same time.

Knowing what you know now, what piece of advice would you give to young filmmakers?

MC: I was trying to come up with something funny. Then I realized if I were a kid reading this, I'd want some serious advice. So I'd tell them what my DOP (director of photography) Ike Avellana told me before shooting: Choose your battles. He was right. Things will go wrong all the time. You won't always get what you want. So figure out what you need and fight tooth and nail for it.

MJ: There is absolutely nothing more fun to do. So you go do your movie!

Is digital technology boon or bane for filmmakers?

MC: I don't see any drawbacks. At present, the visual quality of digital movies is still not as good as 35mm film. But that's just a limitation, not a drawback. I'm extremely excited how digital filmmaking levels the playing field. Seriously, anyone with access to a handycam and a computer can now make a movie. It's a rule of art that at least 90 percent of the available work is garbage. So this newfound access is sure to create more bad films than good. But it's worth it for the last 10 percent.

MJ: Yah. Can I just say that I said that?

MC: Sure.

This is not a 'Rumor'

REVIEW

LOS ANGELES—THERE ARE TWO classic caveats about Hollywood: 1) Never put your own money into a movie and avoid working with animals or children; and 2) Do not draw comparisons between your run-of-the-mill movie and a great one.

That's the problem with Rob Reiner's "Rumor Has It," starring Jennifer Aniston as a woman who learns her family may have been the inspiration for the book and movie "The Graduate."

It sounds like a potentially cute idea, and perhaps with some wit, energy and bite to it, the story could have been a blackly comic successor to Mike Nichols' 1967 masterpiece.

But "Rumor" does not even rise to the level of trivially pleasant. It just lumbers along offering occasionally caustic sparks provided by Shirley MacLaine as the supposed model of Anne Bancroft's Mrs. Robinson.

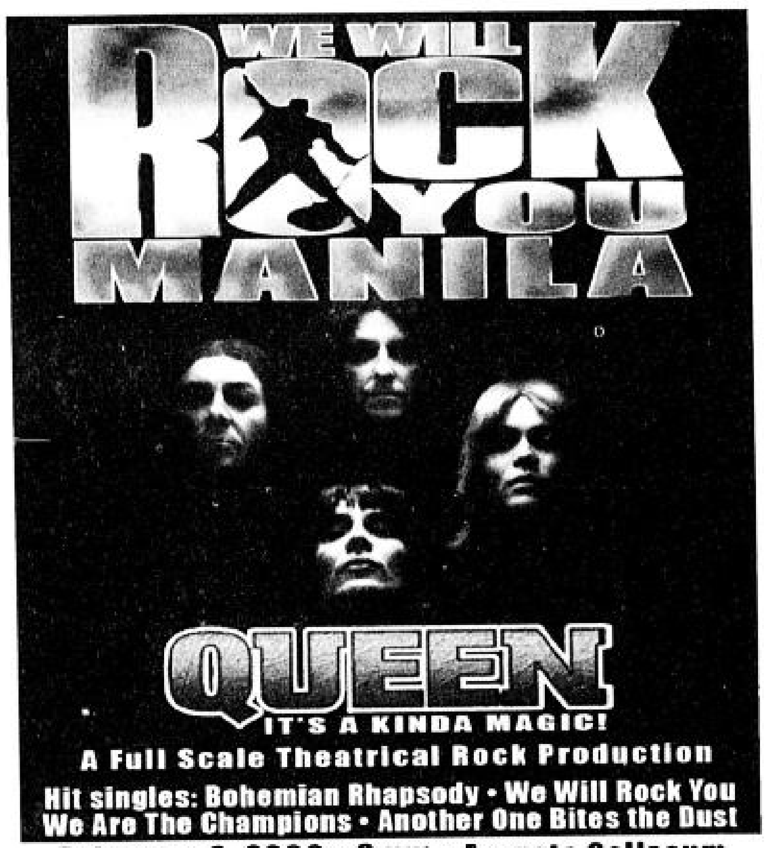
There are few laughs and little drama. The inclusion of the famous seduction scene between Bancroft and Dustin Hoffman and some verses of Simon and Garfunkel's "Mrs. Robinson" only emphasize what a dreary, artificial affair this is.

Everything about the movie is just fine—which translates to bland on a comedy scale.

The director who once had unerring comic timing in "When Harry Met Sally," "The Sure Thing" and "This Is Spinal Tap" hasn't been able to buy a laugh with a string of duds that include "Alex & Emma," "The Story of Us" and, now, "Rumor Has It."

When your highlights are a few snippets of dialogue and a musical clip from the 38-year-old film whose coattails you're soiling, odds are your movie's heading into the drink. No rumors. That's a fact.

David Germain, AP



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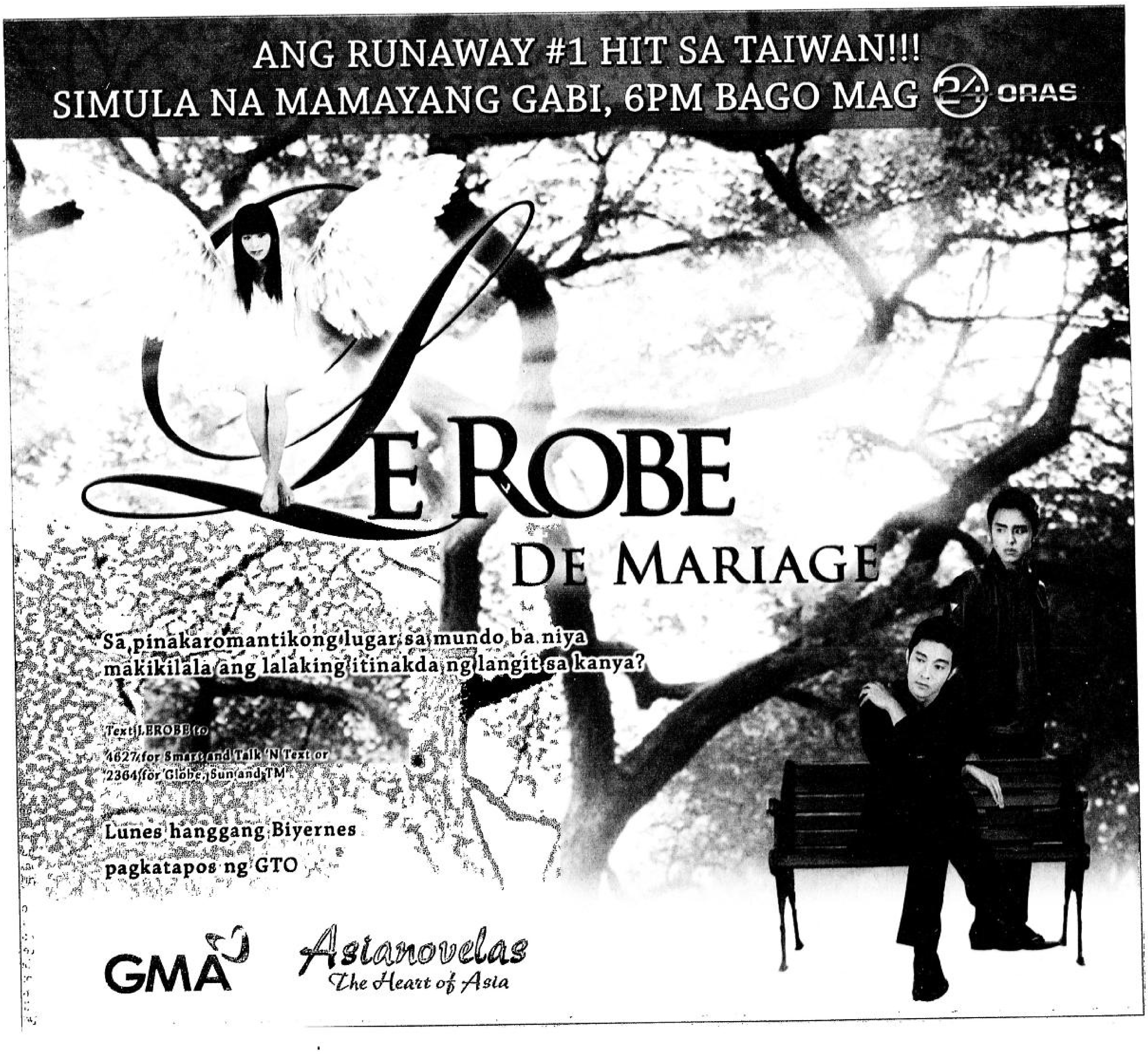
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A reality show where losers win

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

IN ALL COMPETITIONS ON TELEVISION, the victor is called the winner; on the new TV challenge, "The Biggest Loser," however, the top loser is the winner!

How does that work? "The Biggest Loser" fields two teams of really fat people, and subjects them to drastic diet and exercise sessions designed by experts to reduce their body weight.

Each week, the "heavyweight" contestants are weighed, and the team whose members lose the most number of pounds is declared winner.

The losing team then votes out the teammate whom its members feel has proven to be a liability to the group, and the week-long weigh-reduction regimen is resumed without that member.

The same process of elimination is operative week after week, until only one "losing winner" remains—hopefully, rid of most of the fat and bad health habits that had made him or her qualify for the challenge in the first place.

When we caught the show last Monday morning on the Second Avenue channel, the challenge was on its second week. The week before, the portly contestants had lost impressive amounts of weight, so hopes were high that similarly substantial poundage would be lopped off this time.

Alas, the contenders were in for a shattering disappointment. Despite their best efforts and rigorous discipline, they each lost only a pound or at most three, some lost none at all—and one unfortunate fattie even gained three pounds!

People who try to lose weight know that this isn't unusual. A lot of weight is lost at the start of the regimen, but the reduction process soon slows down, frustrating overweight folks who do their darndest to stick to their exercise and diet routines.

And, let's face it, an impressive start makes some people cocky, so they aren't as disciplined as they used to be, and cheat "a little" here and there.

Well, the electronic scales tell no lies, and in fact unmask the slackers and fibbers out there, so they end up fooling only themselves.

While "The Biggest Loser" is often played for laughs, it's an important challenge show, because the stakes for the contestants are so high. The hugely overweight ones among them could end up with numerous illnesses and shortened lifespans if they don't slough off all those pounds and observe a healthy diet.

So, there's much more to victory on "The Biggest Loser" than winning its top prize and all the perks that come with it.

That's why we hope that other overweight people watch the show, to get inspired to address their own weight and health problems.

Viewers who end up losing weight with the help of the show should end up as winners, too!

Music inspired by 'Narnia'

Walt Disney Pictures and Walden Media present the music inspired by "The Chronicles of Narnia." Five-time Grammy winners leads off with the project's debut single and video, "Remembering You."

Rounding up the lineup are Jars of Clay, Delirious, Kutless, Bethany Dillon, Chris Tomlin and the David Crowder Band.

'Samsung Sports World'

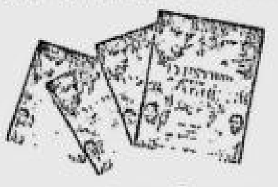
Every Wednesday at 8:30 p.m., AXN telecasts "Samsung Sports World," an entertaining wrap-up of the major sporting highlights of the week.

Tailored specially for Asian viewers, the program covers big international and regional sportsfests, including football coverage from around the world, and updates on the 2006 World Cup.

FEEDBACK

FROM Joanne Savard, Victoria B.C., Canada, via e-mail:

On your "American Idol" story, specifically that part about Clay Aiken. You made more mention of the other former winners' acomplishments. You did not mention that Clay, among other things: 1) wrote a book that made it to the NY Times' best seller list, 2) won in the American Music Awards (Fans' Choice), 3) won a Billboard Award, 4) set up a foundation for autistic children, and 5) was appointed Unicef Ambassador for Education for Children Worldwide.



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MEGAMALL
1 AKO LEGAL WIFE 11:30FS/12:00MF/02:10 03:55LFS/04:20LMF/06:05END
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2 UNDERWORLD EVOLUTION 10:45FS/01:00MF/03:15/05:30 07:15LFS/07:45LMF/09:30END
3 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE 11:35FS/11:50MF/02:15/04:40/07:05 09:05LFS/09:30LMF/11:30END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 RUMOR HAS IT
3 UNDERWORLD 2
4 KING KONG
5 LITTLE MANHATTAN
6 NARNIA
7 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
8 AKO LEGAL WIFE
9 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
10 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
11 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
12 BLUE MOON

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 NARNIA
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 RUMOR HAS IT
5 KING KONG
6 AKO LEGAL WIFE
7 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
8 LITTLE MANHATTAN
9 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
10 BLUE MOON

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 NARNIA
4 KING KONG

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 UNDERWORLD 2
3 NARNIA
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 BLUE MOON
2 AKO LEGAL WIFE
3 EXODUS
4 NARNIA
5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
6 KING KONG
7 UNDERWORLD 2
8 RUMOR HAS IT
9 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
10 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
11 LITTLE MANHATTAN
12 KUTOB

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 RUMOR HAS IT
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 NARNIA
5 LITTLE MANHATTAN
6 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
7 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
8 KING KONG
9 KUTOB
10 RESERVED

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
2 UNDERWORLD 2
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 NARNIA

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 KING KONG
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 AKO LEGAL WIFE
5 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
6 LITTLE MANHATTAN
7 RUMOR HAS IT
8 NARNIA

SM CITY MANILA
1 RUMOR HAS IT
2 NARNIA
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
5 BLUE MOON
6 UNDERWORLD 2
7 AKO LEGAL WIFE
8 LITTLE MANHATTAN
9 UNDERWORLD 2
10 KING KONG
11 ST. ANGE
12 ENTENG KABISOTE 2

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 NARNIA
3 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
4 BLUE MOON
5 RUMOR HAS IT
6 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 NARNIA
2 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
3 IN HER SHOES
4 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
5 BEAUTIFUL BOXER
6 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 NARNIA
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 IN HER SHOES
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO
1 NARNIA
2 ST. ANGE
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 KUTOB

SM CITY BACOOR
1 BLUE MOON
2 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
3 UNDERWORLD 2
4 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
5 NARNIA
6 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
7 KING KONG
8 UNDERWORLD 2

SM CITY MARILAO
1 NARNIA
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 THE MAN
4 ST. ANGE

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 NARNIA
2 THE MAN
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 ST. ANGE

SM CITY LUCENA
1 NARNIA
2 BEAUTIFUL BOXER
3 THE FOG
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 NARNIA
4 AKO LEGAL WIFE

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 UNDERWORLD 2
3 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
4 IN HER SHOES
5 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
6 KING KONG
7 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
8 NARNIA

SM CITY ILOILO
1 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
2 RESERVED
3 NARNIA
4 PRIME
5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
6 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
7 RESERVED
8 IN HER SHOES

SM CITY DAVAO
1 NARNIA
2 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 IN HER SHOES
5 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
6 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 NARNIA
2 BLUE MOON
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

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2 CHRONICLES OF NARNIA 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30 GP
3 RUMOR HAS IT 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00 PG-13
4 JARHEAD 12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:00 R-18

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UNDERWORLD EVOLUTION R13 1:25,3:45,6:05,8:25	JARHEAD R18 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:15	UNDERWORLD 2: EVOLUTION R13 12:55,3:15,5:35, 7:55,10:15

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1 UNDERWORLD EVOLUTION MTRCB R-13 12 00, 2 30, 5 00 7.30, 10 00
2 CHRONICLES OF NARNIA MTRCB GP 1 50 4 40 7 30 10 20
3 RUMOR HAS IT MTRCB. PG-13 12 00 2:30. 5 00, 7 30, 10:00
4 LITTLE MANHATTAN MTRCB GP 12 40, 2 45, 4 50, 6 55, 9 00
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RUMOR HAS IT 12:10/2:30/4:50/7:10/9:30	FAMILY STONE 1:40/4:20/7:00/9:40	NARNIA 1:10/4:00/6:50/9:40	UNDERWORLD 2 2:00/4:20/6:40/9:00
LITTLE MANHATTAN 12:50/3:00/5:10/7:20/9:30	BLUE MOON 1:30/4:10/6:50/9:30	JARHEAD 1:55/4:30/7:05/9:40	ONLY P120 ADMISSION GLOBE PLATINUM P249/P299

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UNANG TIKIM 12:10/2:10/4:10/6:10/8:10	JARHEAD 12:35/3:10/5:45/8:20	DOLBY DIGITAL · dts · SDDS

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	1	THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	
	2	UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION	
	3	RUMOR HAS IT	
	4	DON'T GIVE UP ON US	
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1	RUMORS HAS IT	
	2	DON'T GIVE UP ON US	
	3 THX	THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	1:30 4:30, 7:30 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS
	4	JARHEAD	
	5	LITTLE MANHATTAN	
	6	UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION	
	7	THE FAMILY STONE	
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1	RUMORS HAS IT	11:30, 1:45, 4:00, 6:15, 8:30
	2	UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION	11:30, 1:45, 4:00, 6:15, 8:30
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX	THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS
	2 THX	UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION	2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9:05, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS
	3	JARHEAD	1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS
	4	LITTLE MANHATTAN	1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS
	5	RUMOR HAS IT	2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9:05, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX	UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION	
	2	THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	
	3	RUMOR HAS IT	
	4	JARHEAD	
	5	LITTLE MANHATTAN	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1	UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION	
	2	THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	
	3	IN HER SHOES	
	4	THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE	

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② LITTLE MANHATTAN
③ DON'T GIVE UP ON US
④ THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
⑤ RUMOR HAS IT...

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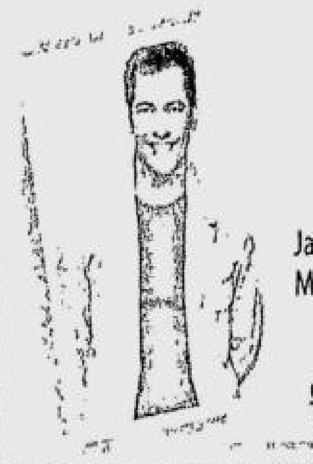

Gary Valenciano
Pure Heart
Album Promo tour

Jan. 27, 2006, Friday, 6pm
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GALLERIA 632-9116

1 UNDERWORLD 2 • THX	12:30 3:00 5:30 8:00
2 UNDERWORLD 2	12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
3 The Chronicles of NARNIA	1:20 4:10 7:00 9:50
4 JARHEAD	12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US	12:10 2:35 5:00 7:25 9:50
6 LITTLE MANHATTAN	1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00
7 KING KONG	2:30 6:00 9:30
8 RUMOR HAS IT	12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
9 THE FAMILY STONE	12:10 2:35 5:00 7:25 9:50
10 BLUE MOON	12:20 2:45
AKO LEGAL WIFE	5:10 7:35 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 UNDERWORLD 2	12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00
2 LITTLE MANHATTAN	12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
3 JARHEAD	12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US	11:30 1:35 3:40 5:45 7:50 10:00
5 The Chronicles of NARNIA	12:50 3:50 6:50 9:50
6 RUMOR HAS IT	12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00
7 KING KONG	11:00 2:20
SAINT ANGE	6:10 8:00 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 JARHEAD	1:05 3:40 6:15 9:00
2 UNDERWORLD 2	11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US	11:00 1:30 4:00 6:30 9:15
4 RUMOR HAS IT	1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05
5 BEAUTIFUL BOXER	1:40 4:00 6:20 9:00
6 BLUE MOON	1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
7 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00
8 KING KONG	1:30 5:05 9:00

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 The Chronicles of NARNIA
2 JARHEAD
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 UNDERWORLD 2
5 KING KONG

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 The Chronicles of NARNIA
2 UNDERWORLD 2
3 JARHEAD
4 RUMOR HAS IT

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JARHEAD

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In the summer of 1990, Anthony Swofford, 20 yr. old third-generation enlistee, got sent to the deserts of Saudi Arabia to fight in the first Gulf War. In 2003, his memories of that time in that place became the best-selling book Jarhead. Swofford wrote with the urgency,immediacy, honesty and humor that could only come from someone who had lived through the experience itself. Here was unvarnished story straight from the mouth of the 20 yr. old kid, who told of a very different war from the one delivered in print or over the air. Here was the war from the ground up with first-time images of undeniable power,brutality, humor and irony.

WELCOME TO THE SUCK
JARHEAD

MTRCB Rating R-18

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907

1 The Chronicles of NARNIA
2 THE FAMILY STONE
3 SAINT ANGE
4 BEAUTIFUL BOXER
5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 The Chronicles of NARNIA
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 BEAUTIFUL BOXER
4 IN HER SHOES
5 JUST LIKE HEAVEN

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 JARHEAD
2 SAINT ANGE
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 The Chronicles of NARNIA
5 IN HER SHOES

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 The Chronicles of NARNIA
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 BLUE MOON
4 IN HER SHOES

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 JARHEAD
2 BEAUTIFUL BOXER
3 The Chronicles of NARNIA
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

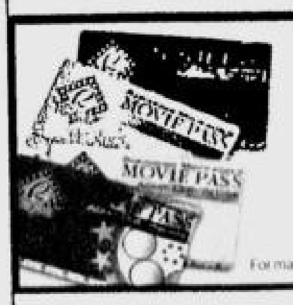
1 JARHEAD
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 PRIME
4 IN HER SHOES
5 BEAUTIFUL BOXER
6 The Chronicles of NARNIA

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459

1 The Chronicles of NARNIA
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
4 THE FAMILY STONE
5 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
6 BEAUTIFUL BOXER

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 The Chronicles of NARNIA
2 IN HER SHOES
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
5 ILUSYON
6 PRIME



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the Maid
ALESSANDRA DE ROSSI
mda

RP hosts 'historic' . . .

KEVIN Lettau, above, and Sirocco from Australia, top. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

From page A2-1

grew up listening to the likes of Sarah Vaughn and Billie Holiday and those weaned on rap music.

Another reason, she said, is the proliferation of pop music that she described as "overwhelmingly loud." She explained: "Nowadays, popular music hits you over the head, it does not allow you to be involved. This means the younger generation is not used to really listening."

Lettau is confident that jazz and similar forms of music will soon enjoy a resurgence. She said the festival is one such opportunity for more people, especially Filipinos, to be exposed to the unique musical art form that is jazz and then maybe champion it.

"[Filipino] culture is an advantage because [of the many] influences, [including] Latin and black," Lettau said. "[That's why] you have a lot of soul."

Showcase of cultures

The desire to showcase that soul prompted the PJS, headed by singer Sandra Lim-Viray, and the Department of Tourism to put the festival together.

Kicking off the four-day event was the World Jazz Fiesta street party at The Podium held Friday night, featuring local bands The Brass Munkeys, Pinikpikan, Guarana, Hairy Dawgs, Nyko Maca and Electrosamba and Sirocco of Australia.

It is Sirocco's first time in the Philippines. The group has been singing for some 25 years now. Its mission: to expose the world to Australian aboriginal music and learn from other cultures.

"Sirocco means desert wind. It knows no boundaries—like music," explains musician Paul Jarman.

David Hudson, who plays the didgeridoo, a traditional aboriginal instrument, added that the group was excited to participate in the festival.

"We call ourselves edutainers," he explained. "We educate and entertain. We believe [we should all] learn from each other because we are part of just one race, the human race."

Sirocco also took part in the official opening ceremonies on Saturday night at the Harbour Square, CCP complex.

Hosted by local jazz great Mon David, the rites also featured performances by UP College of Music Dean Ramon Acoymo, Bob Aves, Grace Nono and traditional groups from Maguindanao and the Cordilleras, Sinika and Kaisahan ng Lahi Dance Ensemble from Puerto Princesa, Palawan, and the Indonesian Dance Troupe.

This was followed by grand performances of the UP Jazz Ensemble, Johnny Alegre Affinity, Lester Demetillo, Makopa, Jong Cuenco, Isha with Look, the Ria Villena Group, Brownbeat, Paolo and Power Train, Aquarela, Makopa and the H30 Jazz Visitors.

Deodato with Lettau

The night was capped by a concert featuring the Kevyn Lettau Quartet and Brazilian composer and musician Eumir Deodato.

Last night, one of the featured artists was homegrown talent Charmaine Clamor, who has released a solo album in the United States, "Searching for the Soul," under Free-Ham records.

The album represents the fulfillment of the American dream for Clamor, who left the Philippines for the US in 1988 to pursue a singing career.

Clamor said she had her share of bad gigs and paid more than her due before she finally got that album into the market.

To come home and participate in the jazz festival, she said, was another dream come true.

"This is such a historic event and it's amazing to be part of it," Clamor said. "Hopefully, we can have something like this every year."

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3 (DOLBY) RUMOR HAS IT PG13
4 (DOLBY) LITTLE MANHATTAN GP
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) JARHEAD R18

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4 GOLD (DTS) RUMOR HAS IT
5 GOLD THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
6 GOLD SDDS) UNDERWORLD-2
7 GOLD DOLBY) LITTLE MANHATAN
8 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
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1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 (DOLBY) BLUE MOON

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 BLUE MOON
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 (DOLBY) EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
4 (DTS) JUST LIKE HEAVEN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
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1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 BLUE MOON
3 (DOLBY) DON'T GIVE UP ON US

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan)
1 BLUE MOON
2 SHAKE RATTLE & ROLL

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Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
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2 RUMOR HAS IT
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 UNDERWORLD EVOLUTION

Blue Wave
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 (DOLBY) JARHEAD
3 (DOLBY) DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 (DOLBY) UNDERWORLD-2

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
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1 (DOLBY) UNDERWORLD-2
2 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 JARHEAD
5 UNANG TIKIM

starmall EDSA & SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266160
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
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5 UNDERWORLD 2

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4 IN HER SHOES

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2 BLUE MOON
3 (DOLBY) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
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3 FAMILY STONE
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

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IN HER SHOES
THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
JUST LIKE HEAVEN

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1 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
2 BLUE MOON
3 (DOLBY) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4 (DTS) IN HER SHOES

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1 BLUE MOON
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

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1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 BLOODFISH

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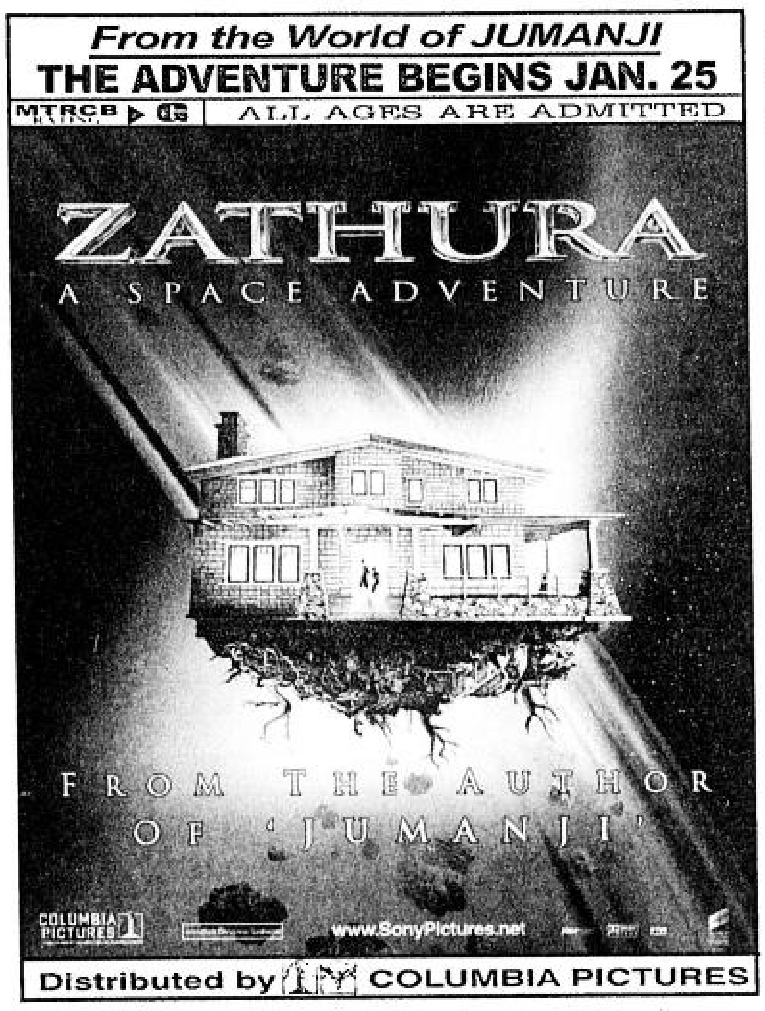
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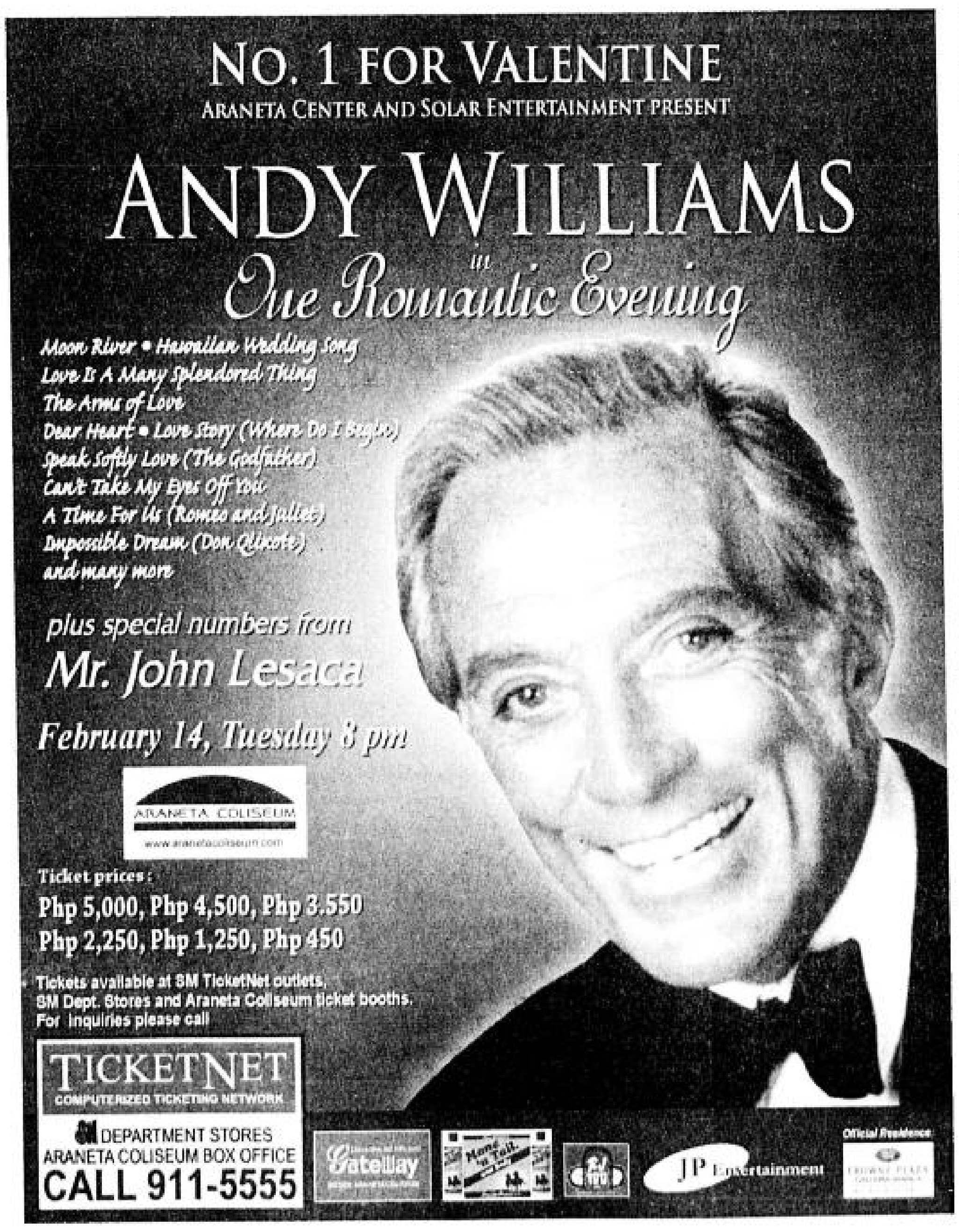
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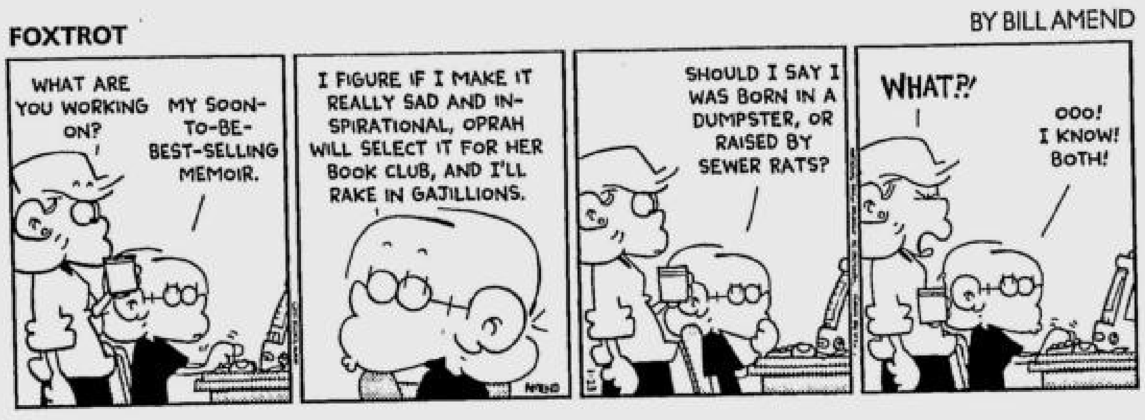
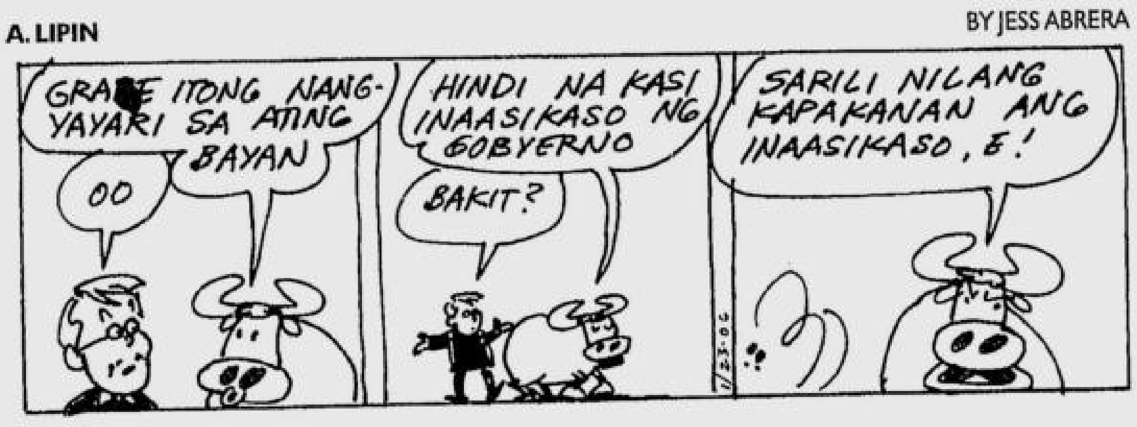
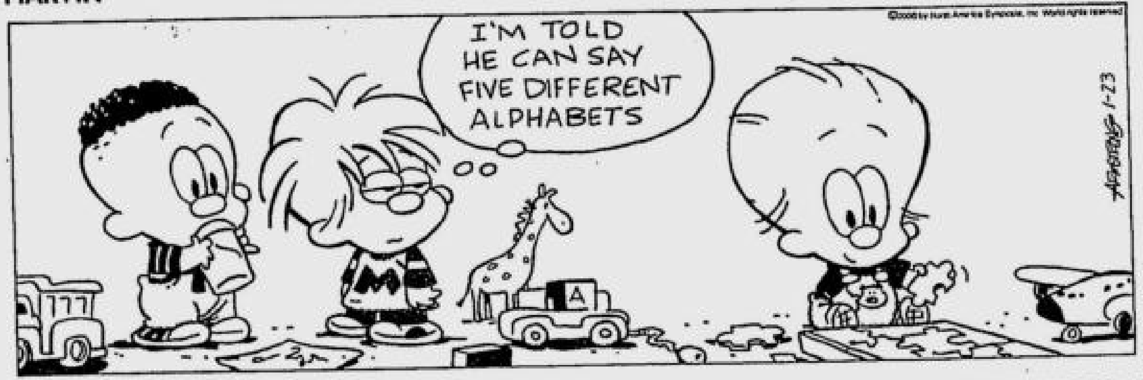

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON?
MY SOON-TO-BE-BEST-SELLING MEMOIR.
I FIGURE IF I MAKE IT REALLY SAD AND INSPIRATIONAL, OPRAH WILL SELECT IT FOR HER BOOK CLUB, AND I'LL RAKE IN GAJILLIONS.
SHOULD I SAY I WAS BORN IN A DUMPSTER, OR RAISED BY SEWER RATS?
WHAT?!
OOO! I KNOW! BOTH!

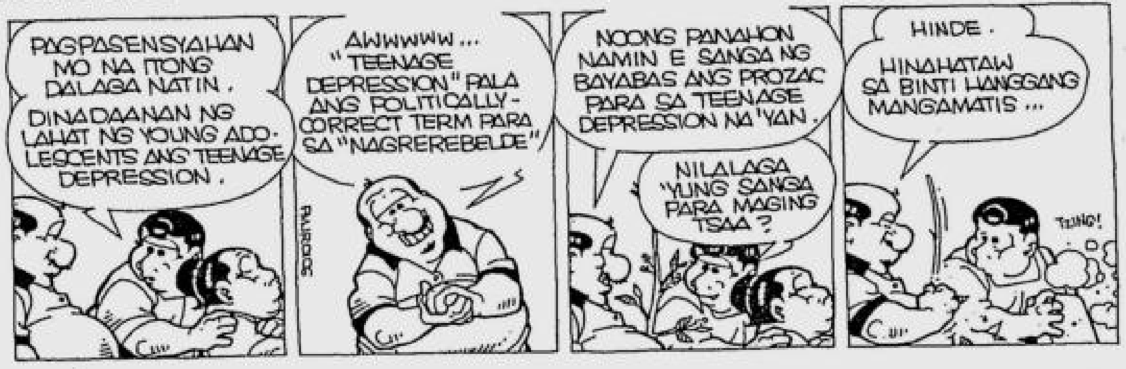
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


GRABE ITONG NANGYAYARI SA ATING BAYAN
OO
HINDI NA KASI INAASIKASO NG GOBYERNO
BAKIT?
SARILI NILANG KAPAKANAN ANG INAASIKASO, E!
1-23-06

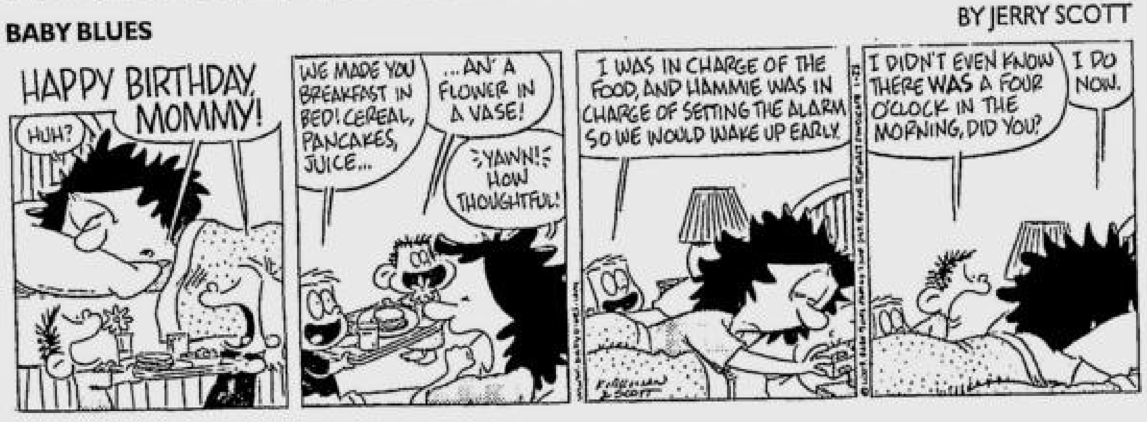
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I'M TOLD HE CAN SAY FIVE DIFFERENT ALPHABETS
A
1-23

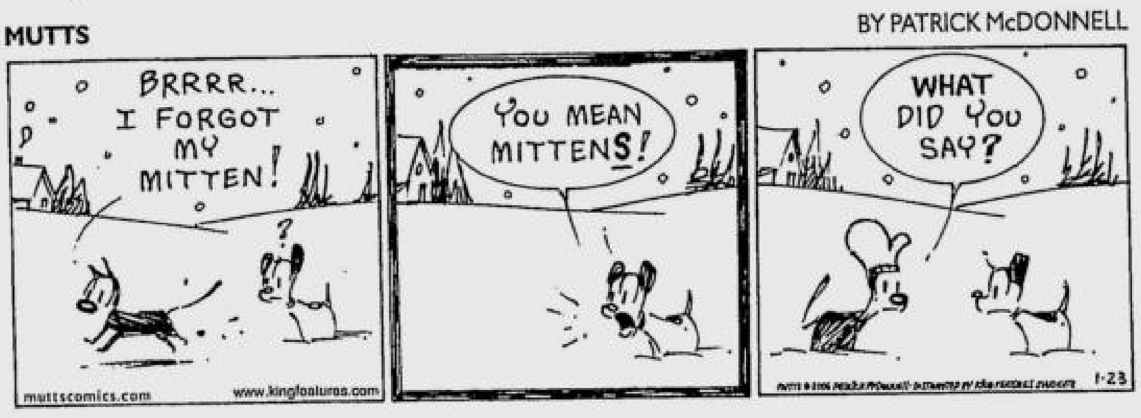
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


PAGPASENSYAHAN MO NA ITONG DALAGA NATIN.
DINADAANAN NG LAHAT NG YOUNG ADOLESCENTS ANG TEENAGE DEPRESSION.
AWWWWW... "TEENAGE DEPRESSION" PALA ANG POLITICALLY-CORRECT TERM PARA SA "NAGREREBELDE"
NOONG PANAHON NAMIN E SANGA NG BAYABAS ANG PROZAC PARA SA TEENAGE DEPRESSION NA 'YAN.
NILALAGA 'YUNG SANGA PARA MAGING TSAA?
HINDE.
HINAHATAW SA BINTI HANGGANG MANGAMATIS...
TSING!

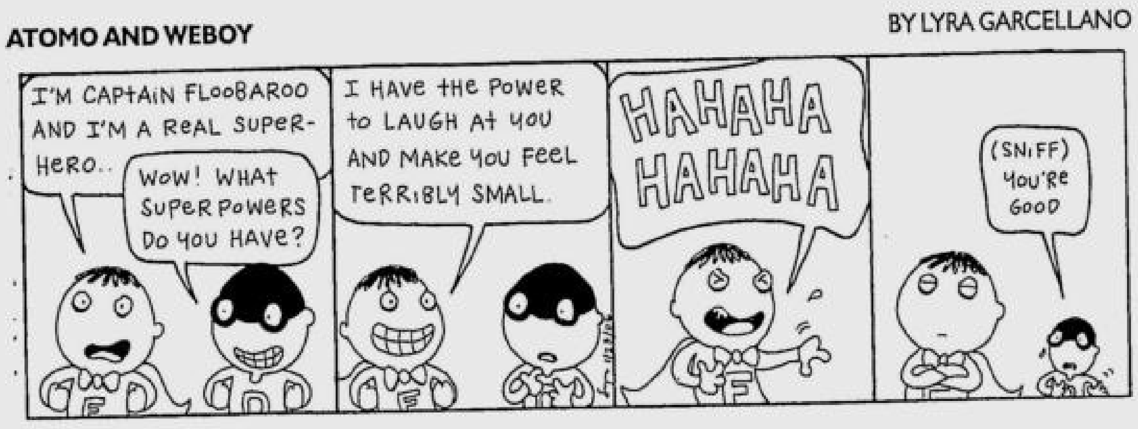
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MOMMY!
HUH?
WE MADE YOU BREAKFAST IN BED! CEREAL, PANCAKES, JUICE...
...AN' A FLOWER IN A VASE!
YAWN! HOW THOUGHTFUL!
I WAS IN CHARGE OF THE FOOD, AND HAMMIE WAS IN CHARGE OF SETTING THE ALARM SO WE WOULD WAKE UP EARLY.
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THERE WAS A FOUR O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING, DID YOU?
I DO NOW.

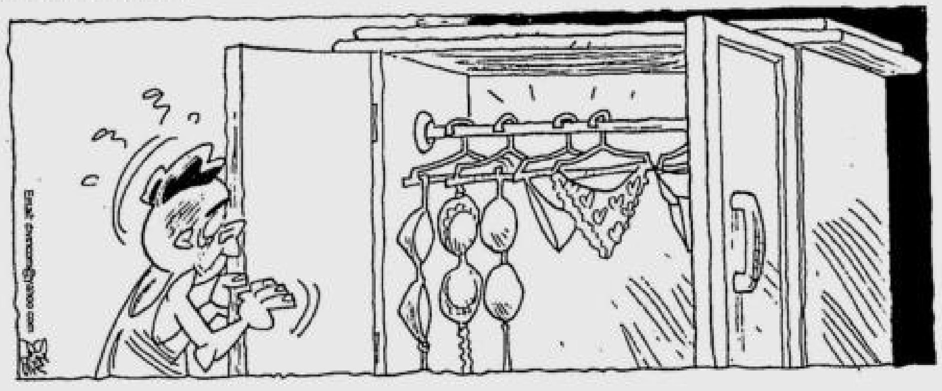
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


BRRRR... I FORGOT MY MITTEN!
?
YOU MEAN MITTENS!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
muttscomics.com
www.kingfeatures.com
1-23

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I'M CAPTAIN FLOOBAROO AND I'M A REAL SUPER-HERO..
WOW! WHAT SUPER POWERS DO YOU HAVE?
I HAVE THE POWER TO LAUGH AT YOU AND MAKE YOU FEEL TERRIBLY SMALL.
HAHAHA HAHAHA
(SNIFF) YOU'RE GOOD

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS



NALANTAD ANG KATOTOHAN NANG BINUKSAN NI NONOY ANG CABINET NG KUYA NYA SA PAG-AAKALANG DAANAN YUN PAPUNTANG NARNIA

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: There's something distinctive about you that sets you apart from others. You are memorable! Many of you perfect a particular technique for your work. You have scruples and character. Honor is important to you. In the year ahead, major changes could take place, perhaps as significant as those in 1997.
Birthdate of: Humphrey Bogart, actor; Rutger Hauer, actor; Brendan Shanahan, hockey player.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You have a strong appreciation for beauty today. Bosses are impressed with your suggestions about making something look more attractive or work easier.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You've decided to go forward with travel plans or something to do with education and publishing. Take care of last-minute details related to travel and education. Your focus is very strong today.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You have some good ideas about how to use the resources of others. Perhaps you need to get permission? (On the other hand, some say it's easier to ask for forgiveness than for permission.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is a wonderful day for any kind of group activity. All your dealings with others are enthusiastic and high-energy. Heads up!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You're very ambitious today. Fortunately, you can get what you want quite easily because you're in touch with your diplomatic skills. You're warm, charming and convincing!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Plans for travel for pleasure, as well as exciting plans about school, turn you on today! You know you have something wonderful to look forward to.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a lovely day to get help from others to make where you live look more attractive. Someone might lend you something or literally help you do something. (It's your lucky day.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is an extremely strong day for actors, teachers, writers, salespeople and marketing individuals. You are so smooth and convincing! (No one can resist your charms today.)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Work hard now to make something or someplace look more attractive. The result will make you feel pleased with everything. (If you shop today, shop in the morning.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a playful, flirtatious day! The bottom line is simply this: You want to have a good time. Enjoy playful activities with children. Grab a matinee or rent a movie. Enjoy some sports. Watch a game. Have fun!

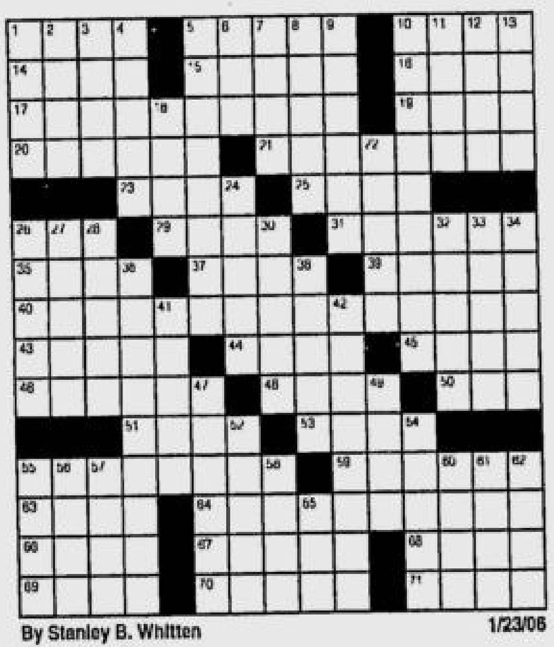
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): With all this activity whirling around you, you are best served by some sweet, silent solitude today. You might not be able to arrange it, but grab whatever you can (especially at home).

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a good day to enjoy the company of friends and groups. Join with others to spread the word about something.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Kind of shark?
5 Hand warmers
10 At that time
14 Hodgepodge
15 Concur
16 Architect Saarinen
17 Kind of shark
19 Put down
20 First generation Japanese-Americans
21 Knickknack shelves
23 Beat decisively
25 Hang-up
26 __ de mer
29 Fencer's instrument
31 Soda sippers
35 Grad
37 Wayside stopovers
39 Minneapolis suburb
40 Three kinds of shark
43 Greenland base
44 Hindu training discipline
45 Gush forth
46 Facilitating
48 Trawlers' gear
50 USNA grad
51 Singles
53 Leaf collector
55 Dumbfounds
59 Lower
63 Actress Miles
64 Kind of shark
66 Landed
67 Use
68 Sea eagle
69 Curtain material
70 Verbose
71 Actual

DOWN
1 Sen. McCarthy's assistant
2 Jai __
3 Outer edges
4 Like some stadiums
5 Kangaroo pouches
6 Sound of disgust
7 Without cost
8 Achievements
9 Touring cars
10 E-mail ancestors
11 Listen to
12 New York state canal
13 Signs of sleepiness
18 Yeats' country
22 Having an entranceway
24 Funny Jack
26 Dull finish
27 Hawaiian greeting
28 Southern constellation
30 Not sideways
32 Loose-jawed
33 Stir from sleep
34 Winter droppings
36 Improve
38 Wiser
41 Medicinal herb
42 As if afloat
47 Bauble
49 Impose a bias upon
52 Motor or mechanism starter
54 Knock-out gas
55 D.C. office of note
56 Constellation near Carina
57 Clapton or Ambler
58 Scorch
60 Employ
61 Sicilian volcano
62 Stagger
65 Assist



By Stanley B. Whitten
Highwood, IL
1/23/06

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

U	N	P	A	C	K	E	D	■	I	D	L	E	S	T
P	A	R	L	A	N	C	E	■	N	U	A	N	C	E
S	T	A	M	M	E	L	S	■	T	R	I	T	O	N
H	U	T	S	■	E	A	S	T	E	R	N	E	R	S
O	R	T	H	O	■	T	E	R	R	A	■	R	I	O
T	A	L	O	N	S	■	R	A	F	■	L	E	A	R
S	L	E	U	T	H	■	T	I	E	■	I	D	E	S
■	■	■	S	O	A	P	■	T	R	O	T	■	■	■
R	A	S	E	■	B	E	T	■	E	V	E	N	U	P
I	L	E	S	■	B	A	R	■	S	E	R	I	N	E
P	F	C	■	S	I	L	A	S	■	R	A	C	E	R
P	R	O	C	O	N	S	U	L	S	■	T	O	A	T
L	E	N	O	R	E	■	M	O	T	J	U	S	T	E
E	D	A	M	E	S	■	A	P	I	A	R	I	E	S
S	O	L	O	N	S	■	S	E	R	G	E	A	N	T

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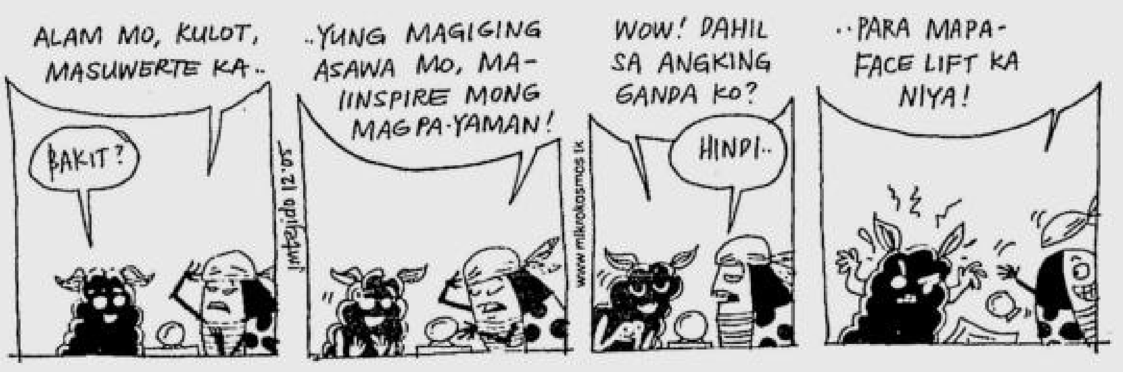
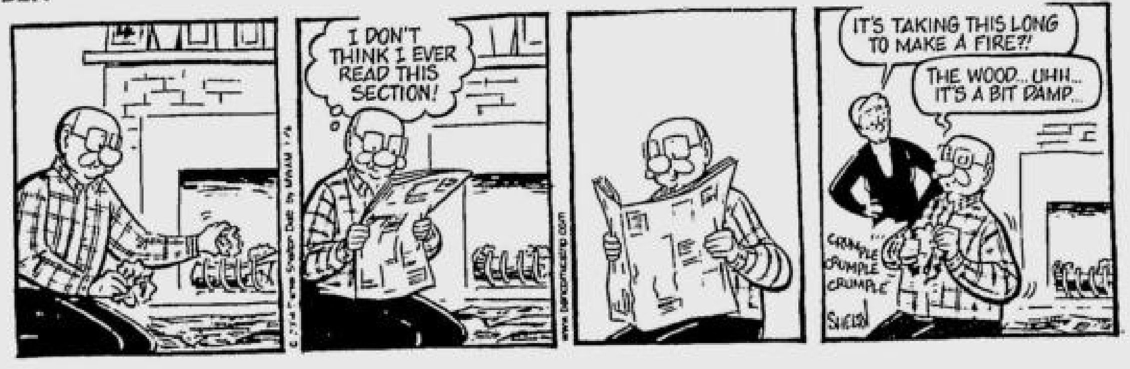
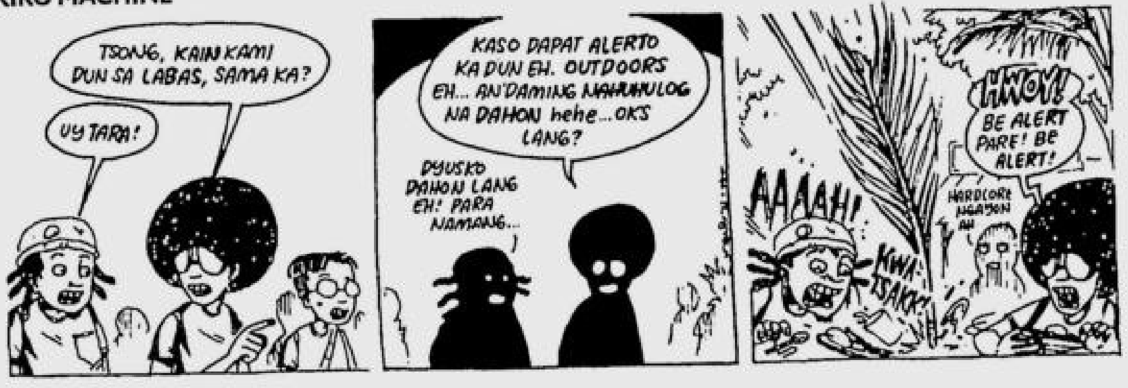
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ALAM MO, KULOT, MASUWERTE KA..
BAKIT?
..YUNG MAGIGING ASAWA MO, MA-IINSPIRE MONG MAGPA-YAMAN!
WOW! DAHIL SA ANGKING GANDA KO?
HINDI..
..PARA MAPA-FACE LIFT KA NIYA!
jmtejido 12'05
www.mikrokosmos.tk

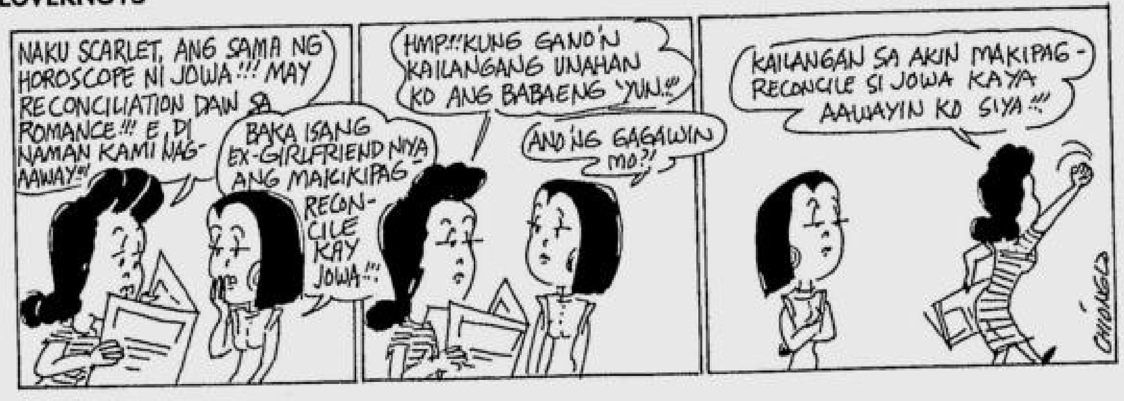
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


I DON'T THINK I EVER READ THIS SECTION!
IT'S TAKING THIS LONG TO MAKE A FIRE?!
THE WOOD... UHH... IT'S A BIT DAMP...
CRUMPLE CRUMPLE CRUMPLE
SHELTON

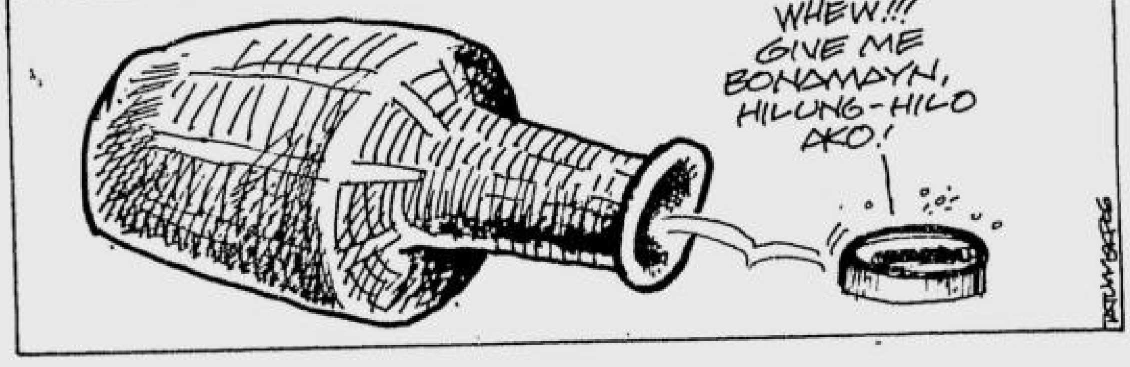
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


TSONG, KAIN KAMI DUN SA LABAS, SAMA KA?
UY TARA!
KASO DAPAT ALERTO KA DUN EH. OUTDOORS EH... AN'DAMING NAHUHULOG NA DAHON hehe...OKS LANG?
DYUSKO DAHON LANG EH! PARA NAMANG...
AAAAH!
KWA-TSAKK!!
HWOY! BE ALERT PARE! BE ALERT!
HARDCORE NGAYON AH

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NAKU SCARLET, ANG SAMA NG HOROSCOPE NI JOWA!!! MAY RECONCILIATION DAW SA ROMANCE!!! E DI NAMAN KAMI NAG-AAWAY!!
BAKA ISANG EX-GIRLFRIEND NIYA ANG MAKIKIPAG-RECONCILE KAY JOWA!!!
HMP!!KUNG GANO'N KAILANGANG UNAHAN KO ANG BABAENG 'YUN!!!
ANO'NG GAGAWIN MO?!
KAILANGAN SA AKIN MAKIPAG-RECONCILE SI JOWA KAYA AAWAYIN KO SIYA!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING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PC BUYER'S GUIDE
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Gov't pump-priming plan gets boost

30% of VAT proceeds to go to infra projects

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE SAID THE GOVERNMENT's better-than-expected fiscal position last year would allow it to undertake a major economic pump-priming program for 2006 without sacrificing its deficit-reduction goal.

President Macapagal-Arroyo earlier directed the Department of Budget and Management to allot P35 billion this year for pump-priming activities largely related to infrastructure development.

The plan to boost spending on infrastructure raised doubts on the government's commitment to continue reducing its budget deficit until it reaches zero by 2008.

But in a discussion paper on budget-related issues, the DOF said the government would not abandon the target of slashing the deficit to only P125 billion this year. It said the pump-priming could very well be absorbed by the government's improving fiscal condition.

Higher-than-programmed revenue collections last year coupled with belt-tightening measures allowed the government to register a budget deficit of less than P160 billion, or much better than the official deficit ceiling of P180 billion set for 2005.

Official budget deficit data for 2005 will be released today.

Malacañang earlier said the P35 bil-

GOV'T/ B4

WHAT'S INSIDE

Top firms to test Globe 3G system /B4
Gov't expects billions in savings /B14
Tonyboy P20B poorer /B5

UCPB seeks debt-equity conversion

By Doris C. Dumlao

SEQUESTERED UNITED COCONUT PLANTERS Bank has asked the government to help speed up the bank's recovery by converting P12 billion in remaining debts into hybrid capital instruments that could qualify as tier 1 or core capital.

Under pressure to shore up its capital in view of more stringent accounting and capital adequacy requirements and yet restricted by unresolved ownership claims, UCPB could revert to profitability in three or four years if Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. would approve the conversion, bank president Jose Querubin said.

"We're trying to get that approved hopefully by the first quarter," Querubin said.

The government infused at least P20 billion in financial assistance to UCPB through the PDIC in 2003 after the bank suffered from heavy deposit withdrawals when the Supreme Court ruled that the coconut levy funds were public money.

UCPB has since pared down its debt with the PDIC but would like to renegotiate the terms of the remaining amount. Its earlier proposal was to convert the cash advances into long-term deposits by PDIC to qualify as tier 2 or supplementary capital.

"What we need is tier 1 capital," Querubin said.

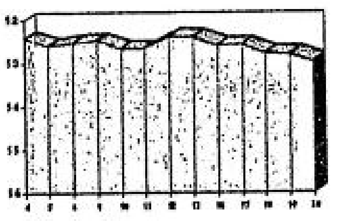
The bank found an opportunity to beef up its tier 1 capital without fresh cash infusion as the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas recently allowed the issuance of hybrid capital instruments as tier 1 or core capital.

The BSP issued guidelines which are based on minimum features recommended for this kind of capital instrument by the Basel Committee, the leading international body promoting convergence of capital standards and

UCPB/ B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



JANUARY

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

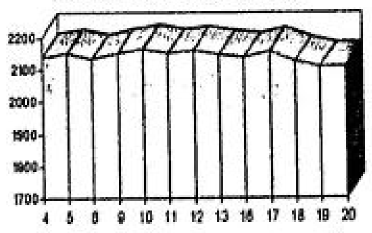
P52.96 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Jan. 20, 2006

¥115.58= $1
As of 5 p.m., Jan. 20, 2006

GOLD: $547.80-548.30
per ounce Hong Kong, Jan. 19, 2006

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

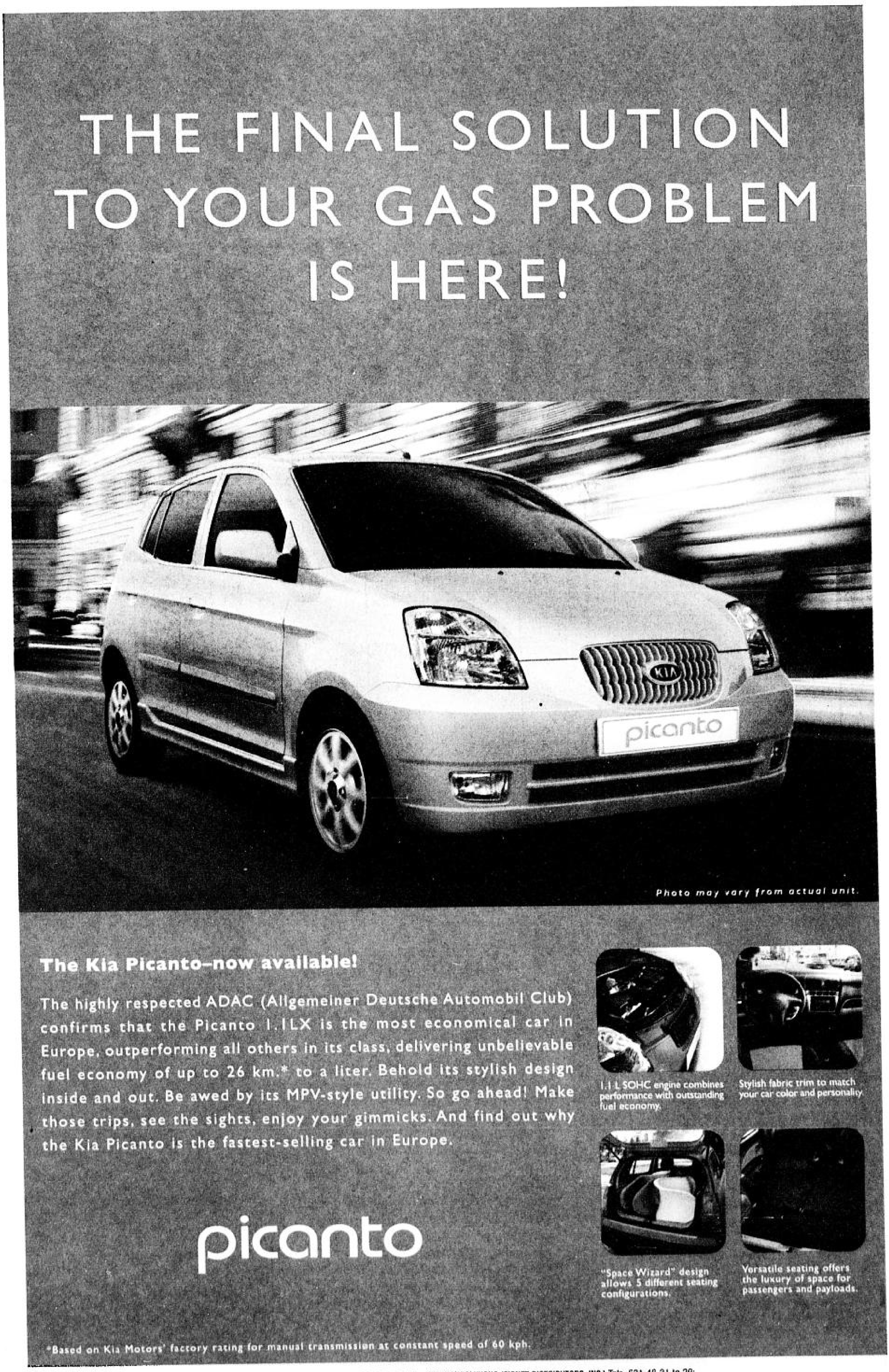
Technical rebound seen

INVESTORS MAY EXPERIENCE A BREATHER from the stock market's correction as a technical rebound and the expected positive sentiment from the imminent implementation of a 2-percentage point increase in the value-added tax are expected to boost prices this week.

In a research note to its clients, AB Capital Securities said the market has already "worked off some excesses" from its "steep rally" since Nov. 1, 2005.

The brokerage firm said the Philippine Stock Exchange Index was moving very close to its major support level of 2,090 where it is expected to make a recovery.

TECHNICAL/ B9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OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT STATISTICS SAY that 24.7 percent or one out of every four Filipino families is poor, based on the 2003 Family Income and Expenditures Survey (FIES). On a headcount basis, 30.4 percent of the population are poor.

Using the same data, Ibon Facts and Figures estimates that almost 90 percent of Filipino families are poor.

The Social Weather Stations (SWS) reports that as of December 2005, 57 percent or more than one out of every two Filipinos describe themselves as poor.

While the numbers vary widely, it is clear that poverty in the Philippines is unacceptably high, whichever number one chooses to believe.

Measurement

Why the wide differences among the estimates?

Even though based on the same data, the government estimates and those of Ibon differ widely because of very different assumptions on what level of income makes one poor. Government places the poverty line at P12,267 per person a year, or P33.6 ($0.64) a day. This translates to P5,111 a month for a family of five, which is now the reference family size used in government poverty statistics.

On the other hand, Ibon estimates that a person must have at least P75 ($1.43) each day, or P492.19 a day and P14,765.70 a month for a family of six. Incidentally, the UN and World Bank have been using $1 a day as a global benchmark to arrive at poverty estimates that can be compared across countries.

Multiple dimensions

SWS' Mahar Mangahas believes that there is no better judge of whether a person or family is poor than they themselves. Thus, their poverty incidence data are based on the number of survey respondents who respond positively when asked if they feel poor (*mahirap*), instead of defining some threshold family or individual income that can be subject to question.

This approach is lent more credence by the wide recognition that poverty is more than just lack of income, but has social, economic, environmental, political, cultural and spiritual dimensions as well.

I once found myself in a discussion with a group from a small affluent country where economic poverty is considered non-existent. As the discussion progressed, there emerged from them a deep hunger, a poverty of a different dimension, particularly in the cultural, political and spiritual spheres. They even expressed envy for us Filipinos, who they regarded as amply endowed in these dimensions of human welfare. Given the authoritarian tendencies their government is known for and the confused state of their culture arising from a mixture of several ethnic groups, their sentiments did not surprise me then. This revealing conversation with people from a supposedly "rich" country reinforced my conviction that poverty goes well beyond not having enough income.

Not inevitable

I end almost every speech or presentation I make with the following observation: Official statistics tell us that one of every four Filipino families is poor. But this also means that 3 of every 4 families are not poor. All it takes, then, is for only one out of those three non-poor families to help lift even just one poor family out of poverty in a sustainable way (e.g. support one of the children's education through college, assist the family establish a stable livelihood, etc.), and we can wipe out poverty in this country!

Members of my audience would occasionally question the premise of only one poor family out of four, especially given the Ibon and SWS figures. Most of the supposedly non-poor probably do not have enough to share, they argue. I reply with a story shared by a woman in a Bible-sharing session my wife had attended years ago in a squatter community. One evening as she and her children were preparing to eat their simple meal of a small bowl of rice sprinkled with salt, they overheard their neighbor's children plaintively crying out in hunger to their mother. Upon hearing the neighbor tell her hungry children that there was no food to eat, this woman decided to share half of their meager meal with the neighbors. If the poor are capable of sharing what

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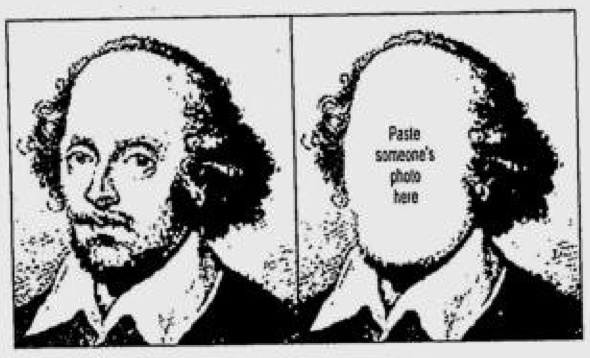
Like Shakespeare, you can choose the perfect words



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February 7-9

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UCPB seeks debt-equity conversion

From page B1

bank supervisory practices worldwide.

While there is no substitute for traditional core capital such as equity, the BSP recognized that international practice has evolved to accommodate more innovative eligible capital instruments that are potentially more cost-efficient and that need not result in automatic dilution of current shareholders.

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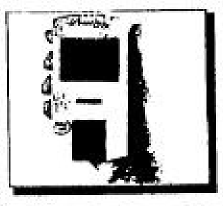

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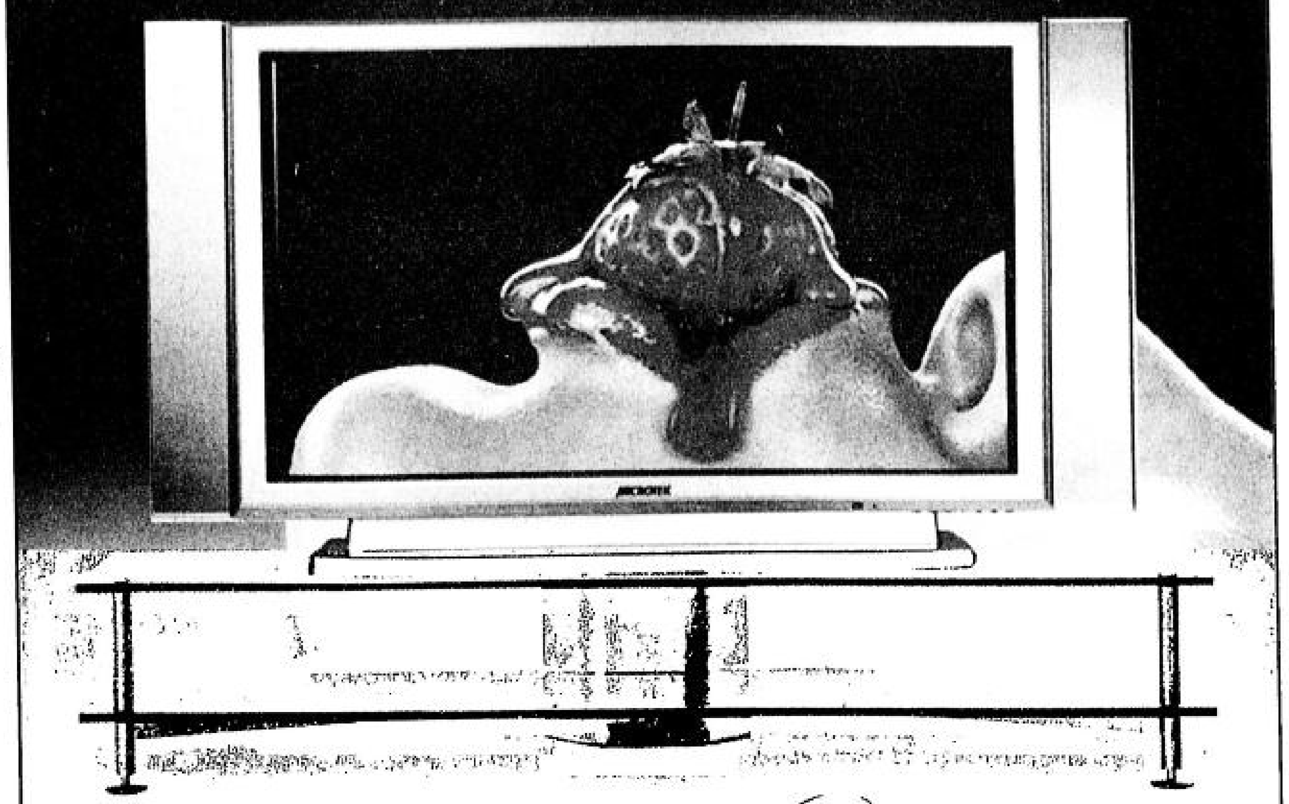

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Top firms to test Globe 3G system

By Clarissa S. Batino

GLOBE Telecom Inc. HAS INVITED PROMINENT corporations to "test drive" its new 3G or third-generation network.

Among these are Ayala Land, General Milling Corp., Sun Life of Canada, PruLife UK, 3M Philippines and the Aboitiz Group of Companies, said Globe in a statement.

The joint venture between Ayala Corp. and Singapore Telecom is set to launch its 3G services by the end of the March.

Fierce rival Smart Communications Inc. is also prepared to soon offer new-generation services, such as video calls, high-speed data downloading and video streaming.

Initially, 3G will only be available in Metro Manila and limited to subscribers with 3G-capable handsets and 3G SIMs.

A telco executive said a video call, for instance, may cost about P16 a minute compared to regular calls that now cost as low as 10 centavos a second.

Globe said it would lead in 3G, just as it had pioneered text messaging in the Philippines.

Smart, however, said it would offer a more superior service after it received the highest 3G rating from the National Telecommunications Commission as well as the largest 3G frequency band.

Smart signed last week an agreement with Nokia for the supply of 3G network equipment and services.

Last week, Smart, Globe, Sun Cellular and Connectivity Unlimited Resources Inc. paid a total of P310 million in fees to the NTC for the use of 3G airwaves.

Smart paid P115 million while the three players paid P65 million each.

"Smart is committed to offer the best 3G services in the market. As of today, deliveries of equipment and services are underway," said Smart president Napoleon Nazareno in a statement.

Nazareno said Smart would spend about $60 million for 3G in its first two years of operation. Smart said the deal with Nokia would allow it to offer cost-effective 3G services.

"As the expectations for 3G are high, this deal ensures that we will be able to keep our market leadership," said Rolando Peña, Smart's division head for network services.

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Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,150,000	-
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	1,175,000	1,050,000
Anvaya Cove Beach & Nature Club	Please Call	
Baguio Country Club	550,000	500,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	40,000	20,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	120,000	60,000
Camp John Hay	200,000	165,000
Canlubang	550,000	490,000
Capitol Hills	70,000	45,000
Cebu Country Club	-	1,300,000
Celebrity Sports Club	120,000	-
Club Filipino	140,000	-
Eagleridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	-
Forest Hills "A"	130,000	90,000
Forest Hills "B"	200,000	-
Forest Hills "C"	200,000	-
Makati Sports Club "A"	180,000	165,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	250,000	-
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	Please Call
Manila Golf (Individual)	-	11,000,000
Manila Polo	2,250,000	2,200,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	350,000	310,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	Please Call	600,000
Manila Yacht Club	400,000	-
Metroclub "A"	120,000	90,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	-	450,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	230,000	-
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	350,000	-
Orchard Golf Club "A"	170,000	150,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	-	280,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	420,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	160,000	125,000
Rockwell	Please Call	-
Spa & Lodge	500,000	-
Sta. Elena "A"	1,300,000	1,100,000
Sta. Elena "B"	-	1,500,000
Tagaytay Country Club	350,000	320,000
Tagaytay Highlands	750,000	650,000
Tagaytay Midlands	Please Call	630,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	100,000	85,000
Valle Verde (Corporate)	200,000	-
Valley Golf	220,000	190,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,350,000	6,000,000

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Alabang Country Club A/B*	1,100,000/Pls. Call*	-
Alta Vista B/Corp.*	-	300,000/300,000*
Baguio Country Club	-	500,000
Calatagan Golf	Pls. Call	40,000
Camp John Hay	-	Pls. Call
Canlubang Golf	530,000	Pls. Call
Canyon Woods	120,000	-
Capitol Hills	70,000	-
Cebu Country Club	1,500,000	1,300,000
Celebrity Sports	120,000	100,000
City Sports Club Cebu	-	380,000
Club Filipino	130,000	-
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	150,000	150,000/290,000*/350,000**
Eastridge A/B*	Pls. Call	-
Evercrest	65,000	-
Fairways & Bluewater	250,000	-
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	120,000/200,000*	150,000*
Luisita Golf	Pls. Call	270,000
Manila Golf Corporate	Pls. Call	-
Manila Golf Individual	Pls. Call	11,000,000
Manila Polo	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Manila Southwoods A/B*	370,000/Pls. Call*	300,000
Makati Sports Club	200,000	165,000
Manila Yacht Club Ind.	350,000	250,000
Metropolitan Club A/B*	120,000/150,000*	90,000
Mimosa Ind./C2*/C3**	Pls. Call	150,000
Mt. Malarayat A	230,000	-
Orchard A/B*/C**	170,000/Pls. Call*/400,000**	150,000
Punta Fuego	400,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	150,000	130,000
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	90,000/250,000**	130,000*
Rockwell Leisure Club	Pls. Call	180,000
Royale Tagaytay CC	80,000	-
Sherwood A/B*/C**	70,000/150,000**	80,000*
Spa & Lodge	520,000	-
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	Pls. Call	1,100,000/1,600,000*
The Palms Country Club	Pls. Call	360,000
Tagaytay Country Club	330,000	300,000
Tagaytay Highlands	730,000	680,000
Tagaytay Midlands	Pls. Call	600,000
The Country Club	2,000,000	-
Tower Club	145,000	-
Valley Golf	200,000	180,000
Valle Verde Ind.	150,000	-
Wack Wack Golf	6,400,000	6,000,000

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PELAC Global Bond Fund	US$ 1.0494	US$ 1.0537

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(As of Jan. 20, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	36	36.5	36	36.5	1,423,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	56	56	55.5	55.5	2,194,400
China Banking Corp.	605	605	605	605	10
Citystate Savings Bank	19	19	19	19	400
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	61.5	62	61.5	62	46,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30.5	30.5	29	30	3,871,600
Philippine National Bank	32	32.5	32	32	43,900
Phil. Savings Bank	35	35	35	35	11,300
Security Bank Corp.	36.5	36.5	36.5	36.5	11,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	100
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Manulife Financial Corp.	3065	3100	3065	3100	220
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.04	95,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	146	146	145	145	4,500
Ivantage Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	120,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	52.5	53	52.5	53	1,317,400
Manila Electric Co. A	14	14	13.75	13.75	81,700
Manila Electric Co. B	21.25	21.25	21	21.25	531,400
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.3	4,635,000
Petron Corp.	4.7	4.85	4.7	4.75	6,942,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	3,800
Jollibee Foods Corp.	38.5	39	38.5	39	94,600
Pancake House Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	50,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.48	1.5	1.48	1.5	82,000
San Miguel Corp. A	63.5	64	63.5	64	37,400
San Miguel Corp. B	86.5	87.5	86.5	87.5	19,000
Universal Robina Corp.	19.25	20	19.25	20	84,400
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	200,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.36	1,850,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.02	1.02	0.95	0.96	4,911,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.35	4.4	4.35	4.4	3,129,000
CHEMICALS					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	9,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	20,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.0775	0.0725	0.075	18,900,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	2,100,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	23,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.007	0.0085	0.007	0.008	598,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	35,000,000
Ayala Corp.	325	327.5	325	325	8,060
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.52	0.53	550,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.9	4.9	4.85	4.85	419,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.024	27,900,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.2	2.26	2.2	2.26	1,930,000
APC Group Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.235	0.24	910,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	30,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.91	0.94	0.91	0.91	4,580,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	14,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.65	0.67	0.65	0.66	70,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9	9	9	9	13,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.12	1.14	1.12	1.12	4,157,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.15	3.2	3.15	3.15	384,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	36,000
JG Summit Holdings Inc.	4.2	4.5	4.2	4.45	5,691,000
Medco Holdings	0.38	0.4	0.38	0.4	300,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
Pacifica	0.0095	0.01	0.0095	0.01	16,000,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.245	0.27	0.245	0.26	16,040,000
SM Investments Corp.	238	240	238	240	216,260
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	20,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	2,300,000
Vivant Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	10,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	7,727,700
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	400,000
Belle Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.04	1.04	3,428,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.185	0.205	0.185	0.2	13,030,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.36	1.38	1.36	1.36	1,271,000
C&P Homes Inc.	1.88	1.88	1.82	1.86	567,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.225	0.24	0.225	0.225	2,860,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.31	3,420,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.49	6,090,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	60,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.46	1.48	1.46	1.48	907,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	1,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	10,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.23	0.235	0.23	0.23	1,960,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.49	230,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.38	1.4	1.38	1.38	4,483,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	2,990,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.135	0.145	0.135	0.135	610,000
Polar Property Holdings	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	5,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.155	0.155	0.15	0.155	1,210,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.8	5,918,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.135	0.135	4,310,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	12.25	12.5	12.25	12.5	2,300
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.93	0.93	0.92	0.93	1,160,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	725	745	725	740	53,630
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.4	3.4	3.35	3.4	2,893,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1800	1805	1785	1785	114,300
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.155	0.16	0.155	0.16	200,000
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	11,000,000
Ionics Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	15,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.049	0.05	0.049	0.05	10,500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.0625	0.0525	0.06	163,100,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.14	1.14	20,000
Philweb Corp.	0.023	0.026	0.023	0.026	1,638,200,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	11.5	11.75	11.5	11.5	257,300
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	90,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.64	1.64	3,884,000
EDUCATION					
Centro Escolar University	9	9	9	9	14,000
Ipeople Inc.	3.05	3.05	3	3	68,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Easycall Phils. Inc.-Com	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.6	20,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.34	1.34	92,000
Paxys Inc.	7.3	7.7	7.3	7.6	4,758,000
MINING & OIL					
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1.22	1.22	1.16	1.16	1,282,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.74	1.76	1.7	1.7	2,782,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	53,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.3	6.6	6.2	6.4	3,450,000
Benguet Corp. A	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	10,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.23	0.23	0.225	0.225	7,200,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.28	4,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	4,600,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.027	0.028	0.027	0.027	58,900,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	226,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.42	1.42	1.4	1.4	330,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	2.2	2.22	2.16	2.18	6,766,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	25.5	26	25	26	286,800
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	600,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.37	0.38	0.36	0.36	330,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	450,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	54,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.95	4.15	3.95	4.1	661,000

Gov't pump-priming . . .

From page B1

lion to be used for economic pump-priming this year would be taken from the savings arising from the lower-than-programmed deficit last year. The "savings" referred to by the Palace was not in the form of actual cash but only an elbow room for additional expenditures because the deficit was lower than programmed.

The DOF noted that of the P81.4 billion in additional revenues to be generated this year from the newly implemented VAT Reform Law, 30 percent has already been officially programmed for pump-priming activities.

This means that the P125-billion target deficit for 2006 already factored in the planned additional spending for infrastructure and other basic services.

"The pump-priming will involve increasing expenditures in the first semester to take advantage of the dry season and realize the impact on growth within the year," the DOF said.

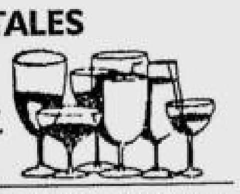
Now that the budget deficit is narrowing, the government is focusing on improving the country's infrastructure, whose poor state has been largely blamed for discouraging the entry of foreign investments.

CURRENCIES

January 20, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.826378	1	52.823
Japan	Yen	0.007161	0.008666	0.4578
United Kingdom	Pound	1.454591	1.7602	92.979
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.10658	0.128972	6.8127
Switzerland	Franc	0.643747	0.778998	41.149
Canada	Dollar	0.710374	0.859623	45.4079
Singapore	Dollar	0.507323	0.613911	32.4286
Australia	Dollar	0.617714	0.747496	39.485
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.192507	2.653153	140.1475
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.220355	0.266652	14.0854
Brunei	Dollar	0.505771	0.612033	32.3294
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000088	0.000107	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.021066	0.025492	1.3466
UAE	Dirham	0.224993	0.272264	14.3818
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.2101	63.9211
Argentina	Peso	0.271388	0.328407	17.3474
Brazil	Real	0.355386	0.430052	22.7166
Denmark	Kroner	0.133989	0.16214	8.5647
India	Rupee	0.018722	0.022655	1.1967
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.220544	0.26688	14.0974
Mexico	New Peso	0.078658	0.095184	5.0279
New Zealand	Dollar	0.56094	0.678794	35.8559
South Africa	Rand	0.138359	0.167428	8.844
Korea	Won	0.000843	0.00102	0.0539
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025755	0.031166	1.6463

Tonyboy P20B poorer

COCKTALES



Victor C. Agustin

FORMER PLDT CHAIR ANTONIO "Tonyboy" Cojuangco Jr. has all the more reason to lose his voice. Last week's Supreme Court decision forfeiting the "ill-gotten" Cojuangco family telecom shareholdings in favor of the government was worth, as of Friday's market closing, more than P20.4 billion.

The holding company Philippine Telecommunications Investment Corp. owns about 26 million PLDT shares, of which 44 percent were being claimed by the Cojuangcos. Friday's PLDT share price closed at P1,785. You do the math.

With the court victory, it is most likely that the cash-strapped government would sell off its newly awarded wealth, but with the First Pacific Group already owning 54 percent of PTIC, it is not easy to find other bidders that would shell out billions in exchange for a minority position.

According to the grapevine, the Supreme Court decision also paves the way for the backdoor entry of the aggressive NTT mobile subsidiary DoCoMo into PLDT without diluting the First Pacific stake, and, more important, without bumping up the 40 percent direct foreign ownership limit on telecom companies.

Both the First Pacific Group and its Japanese ally and DoCoMo's parent, NTT Communications, already own nearly 38 percent of PLDT, with NTT accounting for 13.98 percent.

By coincidence, First Pacific announced last week that it was "considering the acquisition of additional (PLDT) shares," alongside its disclosure that it had bought about 2.4 million common shares from the market in the last few months.

The Hong Kong-based conglomerate said the purchases had to be done so as to prevent its stake from being diluted by the conversion of preferred shares being held by other investors and even PLDT executives.

Despite the acquisitions, First Pacific said its PLDT stake has even slightly fallen to 24.1 percent from the pre-conversion 24.2 percent. PTIC's holdings, incidentally, are equivalent to 14.4 percent of PLDT. The Cojuangco-now-government block in PTIC translates to an indirect 6.336-percent stake in PLDT.

(Footnote: New PCGG Commissioner Narciso Nario Sr. was the ponente of the pro-Cojuangco Sandiganbayan decision that has just been overturned by the Supreme Court.)

Club rigodon

JUST retired Tagaytay Highlands general manager Nick Celdran is literally moving across the road to assume a similar position in the start-up Filipiniana Tagaytay resort.

In contrast to the 1,200-hectare Tagaytay Highlands, Filipiniana Tagaytay is a more modest 20-hectare venture. Still, the planned resort is backed by the financial muscle of Singapore insurance magnate Leow Siak Fah of Citystate Holdings and his local partner, Ambassador Antonio Cabangon Chua of Fortune Insurance and Citystate Savings Bank.

The Singaporean-led group plans to build eight, six-story walk-up condos along the ridge-side resort, selling hotel-room sized studios for as low as P1.8 million.

At that price, a studio unit will qualify even for Pag-Ibig financing.

According to the grapevine, the property, which adjoins the sprawling Splendido golf and country club of Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, was acquired from realtor-now-Oriental Mindoro Rep. Rodolfo G. Valencia. Now a 20 percent partner, Valencia is in charge of marketing Filipiniana Tagaytay, mainly to overseas and middle-class Filipinos who dream of owning a vacation home and weekend retreat just an hour's drive from Makati.

Meanwhile, Celdran's replacement in Tagaytay Highlands, Lizette Villanueva, filed her resignation the first working day following her weekend appointment, saying she instead decided to accept the offer of Rockwell Club for a similar position.

Luckily, Highlands had a quick replacement, in the person of returnee Mabel Martinez, who for seven years was the resort's food and beverage director before she moved to the Haagen Dazs group.

The blame game

FIRST, they blamed the strong peso for their woes. Next, they bewailed their lack of access to financing. Now the exporters' group running Export and Industry Bank is blaming Urban Bank for the Export Bank's declining performance.

No wonder former Urban Bank chair Arsenio Bartolome III is blowing his top these days. "Export Bank acquired Urban Bank five years ago," Bartolome said in an e-mail. "With the acquisition, Export Bank was even able to post a P356.8-million profit for the first merged year, versus their pre-merger net income of only P35 million." From then on, Export Bank was on a downhill slope, squeaking in just over P15 million profit in 2004 and possibly even a loss in the year just past. "Export Bank executives should just look at the mirror and blame themselves for their own inefficiency and poor productivity," a ticked-off Bartolome said.

Heard through the grapevine

FIRST Gentleman Mike Arroyo and his congressman son, Mikey, will likely extend their overseas stay should the President heed the advice of a number of Malacañang advisers. The lightning-rod duo are originally scheduled to return to Manila a week after watching the Pacquiao fight in Las Vegas.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

SMIC war chest to fund EPCIB takeover

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE HENRY SY-OWNED CONglomerate's move to raise more than P6.1 billion from foreign investors is in preparation for its controversial acquisition of Equitable PCI Bank, according to a ranking official of the group.

In a reply to INQUIRER's queries yesterday, Banco de Oro president and CEO Nestor Tan said the funds may be used to boost the group's holdings in the country's third biggest bank.

"[The] proceeds [from the sale of global depositary receipts] will be used for various SM Investment projects, including the purchase of more EPCIB shares should it become available," he said.

Tan's statement may be an indication that the SM Group is preparing for a more aggressive merger battle with existing shareholders of EPCIB and other potential buyers of the bank, if any.

Last Friday, SM Investments Corp. unveiled a plan to raise up to $115.5 million through the sale of global depositary receipts (GDRs) by its subsidiary. SMIC said it will issue up to 9.1 million in GDRs priced at $12.70 each.

GDRs are fund-raising instrument where a bank certificate is issued in a foreign country for shares of stock traded in another company. The underlying shares are held by the local branch of an international bank, and are traded on the overseas stock market.

Tan said this mode of fund raising will help bring in more foreign investors into one of the country's most attractive retail and banking plays.

"[The] GDRs will allow foreign investors to buy into the economic benefits of BDO shares, without breaching the foreign ownership ceiling," he said.

No Free Lunch

From page B2

little they have (and they often do!), what more with those of us who have so much more? There is a saying that no one is so poor not to have something to share, and no one is so rich not to need something from others.

Indeed, if only there were enough caring and sharing among us Filipinos, poverty need not be inevitable!

Errata

Readers have pointed out two flaws in my recent column "We are a blessed nation" (NFL, 1-2-06). First, the reference to Pope John Paul VI should have been Pope John Paul II. Mea culpa. Second, that quote attributed to our Ms International Princess Lara Quigaman, describing Filipina domestics as people who make a living out of loving and caring for others, turns out to be another one of those e-mail hoaxes. Nonetheless, hoax or not, the description remains quite apt and stirring.

Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu

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Internet access cost dropping fast in RP

By Erwin Oliva
Contributor

THE COST OF DIAL-UP AND BROADband Internet services is going down fast in the Philippines, enabling more Filipinos to go online.

An unlimited Internet dial-up account bundled with phone service costs P840 a month, according to Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) rates.

The growing popularity of broadband access has forced traditional dial-up Internet service providers (ISPs) to reduce monthly rates, said Rep. Joseph Santiago, noting that "the cheapest dial-up Internet access now is P160 monthly."

That bundled PLDT service costing P840 monthly covers basic monthly landline service and unlimited Internet access. A landline residential subscriber paying about P680 monthly would have to add just P160 to get unlimited dial-up Internet access.

Independent dial-up services even offer unlimited Internet access services for as low as P13.30 per day or P399 a month. Previously, the cheapest Internet service was about P25 a day or P748 a month.

Santiago, who is vice chairman of the House transportation and communications committee, further said that inexpensive Internet access is expected to draw more subscribers this year.

PLDT for one reported about 76,000 broadband Internet subscribers as of September 2005, an increase of 54 percent over its 49,500 users in September 2004. Smart Communications Inc. and Globe Telecom Inc. had about 20,000 wireless broadband subscribers at the time.

The market research firm International Data Corp. projects Internet users in the Philippines to double from 11.8 million at the end of 2004 to an estimated 20 million by 2007.

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Obscene Kama Sutra worm targets vulnerable PCs

By Erwin Oliva
Contributor

AN INTERNET WORM HAS BEEN DISCOVERED spreading a variety of pornographic photos and movies to trick people into launching it and disabling security software, security experts at SophosLabs said.

The "Nyxem-D worm" is now spreading through e-mail. When launched, it attempts to disable a number of antivirus and firewall products, also harvesting e-mail addresses from infected computers in order to spread further.

This new Internet worm is also known as "Email-Worm.Win32.VB.bi" or "W32.Blackmal.E@mm."

The e-mail that carries the Internet worm uses a variety of subject lines, such as "Hot Movie," "Arab sex DSC-00465.jpg," "Kama Sutra pics," "Fw: SeX.mpg," "Fwd: Crazy illegal Sex!," "give me a kiss," "Miss Lebanon 2006," "Part 1 of 6 Video clip," "School girl fantasies gone bad," and "The Best Videoclip Ever."

"Companies should educate their users to practice safe computing—that includes never opening unsolicited email attachments and discouraging the sending and receiving of joke files, pornography and screensavers," reminded Graham Cluley, senior technology consultant for Sophos.

"This worm feeds on people's willingness to receive salacious content on their desktop computer, but they could be putting their entire company's data at risk," he added.

Nokia bags Smart 3G network contract

By Erwin Oliva
Contributor

TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT firm Nokia has bagged a contract to supply local operator Smart Communications with third generation (3G) network technology and services.

The contract covers the supply of 3G radio access and core network equipment, including the Nokia High Speed Downlink Packet Access solution, 3G upgrades to the existing circuit and packet switched networks of Smart, and other related network services.

Smart did not disclose how much the contract was worth.

"Smart is committed to offer the best 3G services in the market. As of today, deliveries of equipment and services are underway. The investments under this contract will allow us to establish quality nationwide 3G coverage in the shortest possible time." said Napoleon Nazareno, Smart president and CEO.

Nazareno noted that the operator has been testing a number of 3G cell sites and content such as streaming video clips, which can already be previewed at demonstrations in some of its wireless centers in Metro Manila and Metro Cebu.

Smart was among the four local operators recently granted licenses to operate 3G services in the Philippines by the National Telecommunications Commission.

Officials previously indicated that the operator expects commercial 3G services to become available in the first quarter of this year.

3G is a faster mobile communications network that supports the wideband code division multiple access (WCDMA) standard. It allows for faster data transmission speeds, making possible high-speed data communications and mobile multimedia services like video conferencing, audio streaming and mobile Internet.

Smart conducted a live test of its 3G capabilities in December 2005 in Cebu City

During the demo, the company showed a live video conference call within its network and an international roaming call between the operator and Telecom Italia Mobile.

SMART officials said that the company started preparations for a seamless transition to 3G as early as five years ago with Nokia.

"In December 2000, SMART in cooperation with Nokia conducted the first successful 3G video call in the country in the presence of NTC officials. Using experimental equipment, this test call recorded data transfer rates of up to 216.9 kbps," the company added.

Smart has been working with Nokia as its sole network supplier since 1998.

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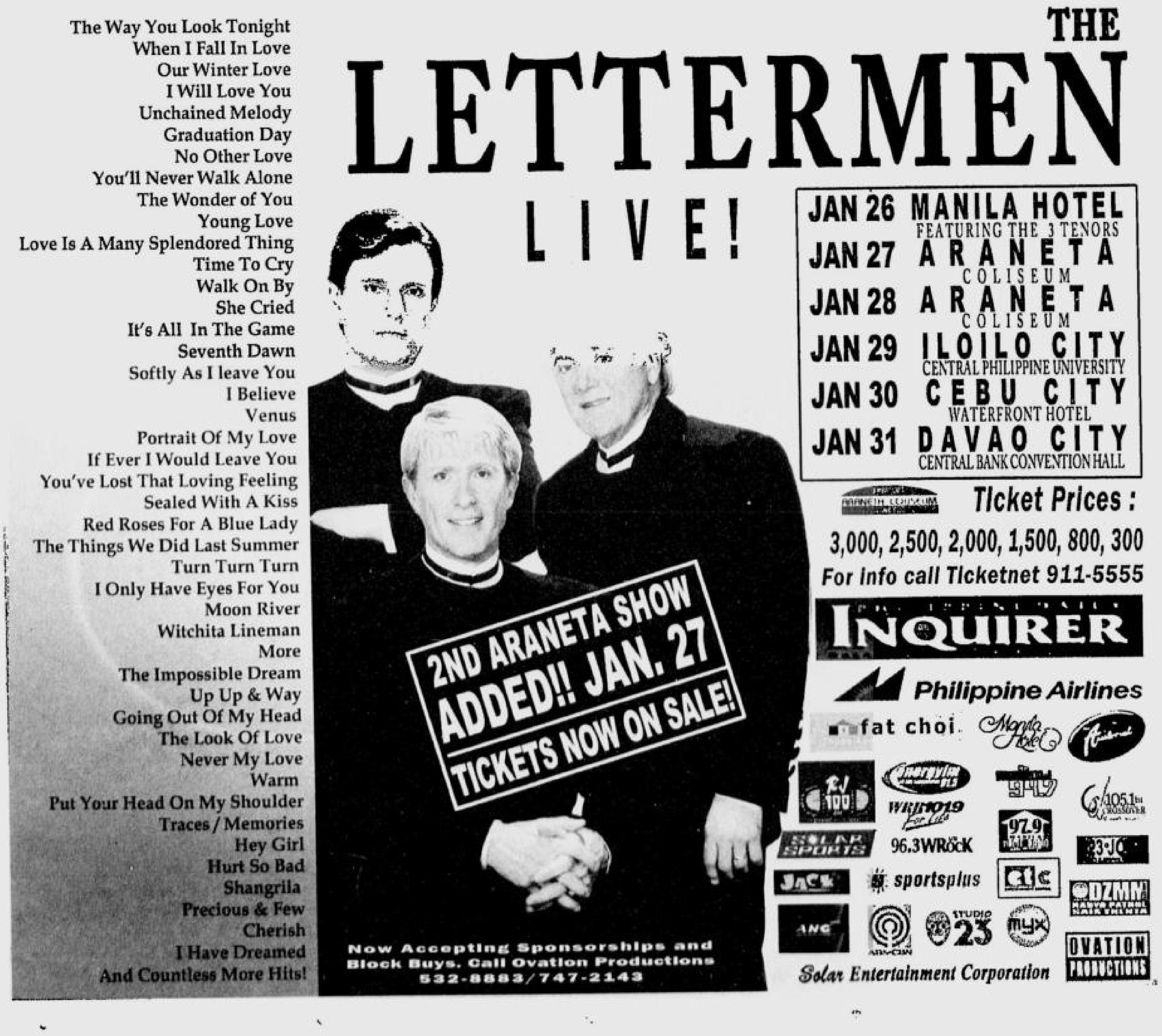

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RP Software firms earned P9.2B in 2005

By Alexander Villafania
Contributor

THE PHILIPPINE SOFTWARE INDUSTRY earned approximately P9.2 billion in 2005, a 36-percent growth from 2004, according to the Philippine Software Industry Association (PSIA).

This was a better performance than 2004, which saw a P6.7-billion revenue increase.

The short PSIA report is based on the survey responses of 40 member companies representing the majority of the Philippine software industry's top earners.

The foreign market still accounts for 87 percent of all business in the Philippine software industry. Revenues from software development amounted to P8.3 billion, 98 percent of which came from foreign sales.

Software implementation and consulting contributed P783 million, of which 70 per cent went to projects in the Philippines.

This is the second such survey conducted by the organization, PSIA President Fermin Taruc told Infotech. The first was in 2004, where the PSIA consolidated the reports of various software development and sales firms.

"We'll be doing this every year since it's part of our Fly High 2010 strategy. We want more Philippine software firms to grow their business both locally and abroad," Taruc said.

RP exporters eye bigger share of decor market

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL EXPORTERS ARE JOINING the world's leading trade fair for festive occasions in a bid to gain a bigger presence in the growing market.

According to the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions, 11 local exporters are joining Christmasworld 2006 in Frankfurt, Germany, to be held Jan. 25-29.

Citem head and Trade Assistant Secretary Fe Agoncillo-Reyes identified these as: Balasi Export; Buena Mano Crafts Inc.; Craftsite Export Company; L&A Designs; Liman Designs; Magellan Manufacturers Marketing Corp.; Philippine Concorde Trading Corp.; Philippine Treasures Inc.; Sally's Crafts; Sanport Craft International and Sarilinlikha Novelties.

The participating SMEs are engaged in giftwares and holiday décor, which posted combined earnings of $76 million or at least P4 billion in 2004.

The country's biggest export markets for products related to festivities and celebrations were the United States—which bought $50 million or about P2.75 billion worth of goods in 2004—Germany and Japan.

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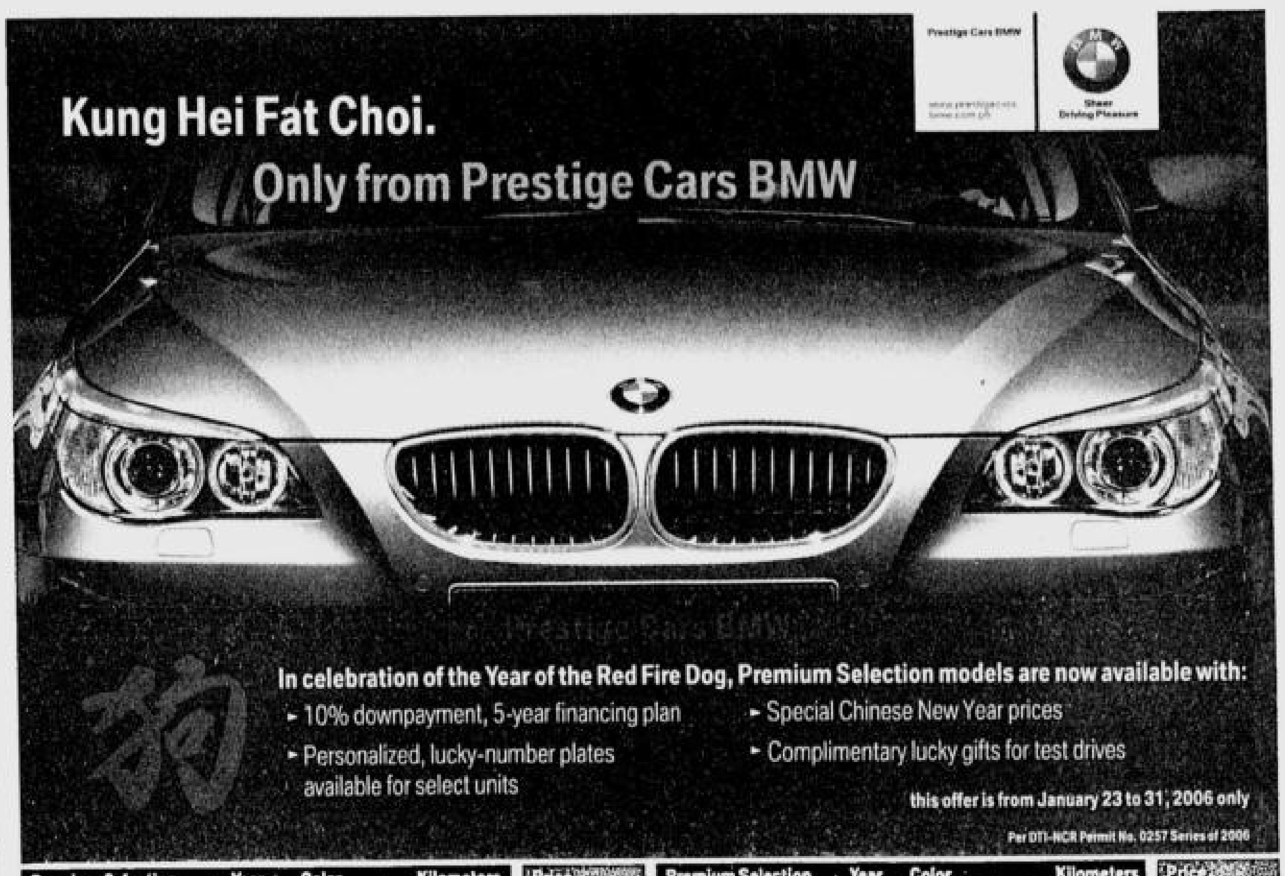

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BMW 318i Exec.	2004	Titanium Silver	25,000	P1,748,000
BMW 318i M Sport	2004	Titanium Silver	14,267	P1,788,000
BMW 320i (E90)	2005	Arctic	8,000	P2,228,000
BMW 323iA	1999	Cosmos	65,000	P1,088,000
BMW 325i M Sport	2004	Imola Red	12,382	P2,480,000
BMW 325i Exec.	2004	Black Sapphire	17,000	P2,088,000
BMW 520i Limo.	2005	Mystic Blue	1,401	P3,788,000
BMW 525i Exec.	2005	Titanium Silver	3,513	P4,388,000
BMW 525i Exec.	2004	Black Sapphire	11,501	P3,800,000
BMW X3 2.5i Exec.	2004	Black Sapphire	14,331	P3,280,000
BMW X5 3.0i Exec.	2004	Black Sapphire	13,153	P4,588,000
BMW X5 3.0d Exec.	2005	Titanium Silver	4,000	P5,188,000
BMW Z4 2.5i Roadster	2005	Toledo Blue	2,571	P2,980,000
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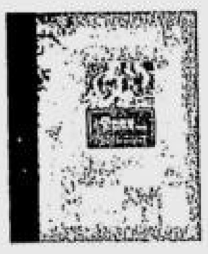

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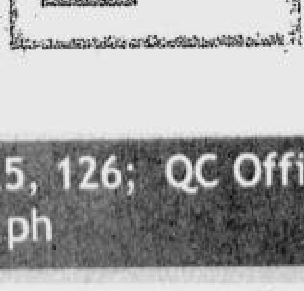

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'06 list of preferred investment areas readied

Focus on expansion and diversification

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT IS COOKING UP A 2006 Investment Priorities Plan that is geared mainly at maintaining current operations and stimulating expansion and diversification of businesses.

Official documents show that representatives from various government agencies held last Friday one of a series of meetings to discuss and draft the 2006 IPP.

The new plan would continue to support the administration's program of addressing poverty and encouraging globally competitive industries.

"The underlying focus is still to improve economic opportunities in the country and to generate jobs, provide food and deliver basic services," according to the document.

"The new IPP will also give greater emphasis on the modernization of infrastructure system to ensure the efficient movement of goods and people," according to the document.

It, likewise, aims to provide the support for the development and use of new technologies that would help improve productivity, the paper added.

Further, the 2006 IPP would follow through on promoting the growth of micro, small and medium enterprises; encouraging foreign investors to relocate in the country, and stepping up the promotion of foreign and local investment.

The new plan will also retain the 11 investment areas identified in the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan as preferred activities to qualify for incentives.

Full incentives under the IPP include tax holidays, duty-free importation of capital goods and other fiscal and non-fiscal perks.

The 11 investment areas include agri-business; healthcare and wellness products and services; information and communications technology; electronics; motor vehicle products; energy; infrastructure; tourism; shipbuilding/shipping; jewelry; and fashion garments.

Aside from these preferred activities, other areas are included in the IPP as specifically required under existing laws.

Covered by mandatory inclusion are industrial tree plantations; iron and steel projects; exploration, mining, quarrying and processing of minerals; publication or printing of books or textbooks; and refining, storage, marketing and distribution of petroleum products.

The IPP covers activities involved in the ecological solid waste management; the provision of clean water; those covered in bilateral agreements, and the rehabilitation, self-development and self-reliance of disabled persons.

Globe tops NTC Q4 network monitoring

By Clarissa S. Batino

GLOBE TELECOM INC. TOPPED THE NETwork monitoring conducted jointly by the National Telecommunications Commission and the Philippine Chamber of Telecommunications Operators in the fourth quarter of 2005, a joint NTC and PCTO report showed.

Among the three major mobile players, Globe's network received the highest rating both on calls connected on first attempt and on completing calls.

Network audit had to be done to resolve issues on traffic congestion and to determine whether the carriers were meeting the NTC performance standard.

It also addressed claims by Globe and Smart Communications Inc. that Sun Cellular failed the performance benchmarks of NTC.

Based on the monitoring done by the NTC and the PCTO, the umbrella organization of Philippine telcos, 98.51 out of every 100 calls to Globe were connected on the first attempt and 97.29 out of 100 calls were completed without being dropped by the network.

Smart Communications Inc. scored slightly lower with a call setup success rate of 97.82 percent and 97.06 percent on call completion, based on documents of the NTC and PCTO.

Sun Cellular of Digitel Mobile Phils. Inc. scored poorly on the setup success rate but had a decent rating on call completion.

The tests showed Sun connected on the first attempt only 66.61 out of every 100 calls but it completed 94.22 out of every 100 calls.

NFA gets P20B for rice procurement operations

By Christine A. Gaylican

STATE FIRM NATIONAL FOOD Authority was given by the Department of Finance a borrowing ceiling of P20 billion for its palay procurement and rice inventory building activities, NFA Administrator Gregorio Y. Tan Jr. said on Friday.

NFA is tasked to ensure food security by maintaining a buffer stock of rice, and to keep rice prices affordable while giving farmers commensurate income for their produce. It buys palay from the farmers, particularly during the peak of the harvest season, to be used in building up the buffer stock.

If local production falls short of demand, NFA imports the staple to fill the gap and maintain the desired level of inventory. The NFA draws form the stock for infusion into the market whenever need arises.

The NFA has been resorting to government-guaranteed borrowings since the budget given to it by the national government falls short of its actual requirement. NFA's loans usually come from government-owned and -controlled commercial banks.

The state-owned trading firm has been criticized for its huge losses, amounting to P33 billion in the last three years.

"This is due to our mandate to buy palay at a higher price to benefit farmers but and sell at a low price to the consumers," Tan explained.

In a bid to bring down its losses this year, the NFA is asking the DOF to defer the collection of P13 billion in tariffs on the rice importation the state trading firm made in the past years.

Since 2002, the agency has been paying as much as 50 percent tariff on its rice importation and this, Tan said, was a heavy burden to the NFA.

"We actually borrow from local banks to pay these duties and because of this, our interest expense reached P2 billion," he said.

Another option to ease the agency's financial burden, Tan said, was for the agency to assign its import rights to private groups.

With international rice price now ranging from $250 to $270 per metric ton, the country's rice imports this year could cost P15- P20 billion, given the projected rice production shortfall of not less than 1.4 million metric tons.

Tan said there was also a move to trim the NFA bureaucracy by eliminating 744 work functions to reduce operating expenditures and personnel salaries now amounting to P2.6 billion.

Fishers and scientists unite

COMMENTARY

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

IN THE MOVIE "SLEEPLESS IN SEATTLE," the character played by Tom Hanks was sleepless because he just lost his wife. His son called a radio station and that led the character played by Meg Ryan to Hanks' character. They fell in love and found happiness. In a sense, this is what is happening between our fishers and scientists today.

Sleepless in Hong Kong

During the WTO Ministerial Conference from Dec. 13 to 18 last year, leaders from the fisherfolk were sleepless in Hong Kong. They were busy dealing with a two-pronged "inside -outside" strategy consistent with the Alyansa Agrikultura engagement approach.

Inside the conference hall, Arsenio Tanchuling of the Tambuyog Development Center or TDC, who was given official adviser status by the Philippine government, argued for fair trade for the fisherfolk. Outside, Buddy de la Cruz of the Kilusang Mangingisda coordinated a two-boat convoy for the same cause in Hong Kong Harbor, escorted by four Hong Kong government boats. This was in addition to being the only non-government group allowed at the conference premises to personally deliver their petition.

It was during this time that the scientists reported to the TDC through e-mail the existence of the now controversial Department of Environment and Natural Resources Administrative Order No. 24, which allowed a 25-year lease, renewable for another 25 years, of portions of the country's 266,000 square kilometers of coastal areas for development by outside investors.

Municipal fisherfolk who were developing many of these areas through Forest Management Agreements (CBFMAs) were being displaced without due process.

While leaders from the fisherfolk were sleepless in Hong Kong fighting injustice in the world trade regime, other injustices were being committed on the domestic front.

An example

Pedro Valparaiso, general manager of Zaragoza-Badian Island Multi-purpose Cooperative, told us the experience of the Malhiao Resource Management Multi-Purpose Cooperative in Cebu. Because of the DENR order automatically canceling all CBFMAs in eight regions, MRMMPC was forced to stop all their CBFMA operations.

Valparaiso said: "The MRMMPC has planted more than 1 million propagules in the hectares under their care. A DENR order automatically canceling all CBFMAs without giving credit to the ones that have performed very well, such as MRMMPC, is oppressive and grossly unfair."

The foregone benefits are significant. Approximately 500 people earning at least P100 a day collecting clams during the two hours of low tide have lost their livelihood. They can also no longer gather the leaves they use as feeds for their domestic animals such as their goats and carabaos. Most importantly, the mangrove areas they have upgraded will no longer serve as effective spawning grounds for the fish stock that small fishers depend on.

The fisherfolk believe that the cancellation of CBFMAs without due process is meant to prepare the ground for big investors to come in through AO 24.

Upon hearing the complaints of the fisherfolk, a DENR undersecretary was quoted by an INQUIRER report as saying: "We probably just have to change the title or make some clarification on the AO."

Jurgenne Primavera and other members of the Philippine Association of Marine Scientists met with Environment Secretary Michael Defensor to object to AO 24. They argued that CBMAs were the most effective and profitable way to take care of the mangrove areas for the nation's benefit. As a result, DENR Director Virgilio Vitug said: "Sec. Defensor has listened to them. We're already revising the AO based on their observations."

Impact on uplands

CBFMAs are also implemented in the uplands. Ibarra Malonzo of the Kasanyangan Foundation points out that the cancellation has already affected 77,000 hectares in the uplands of Region 9. He says: "Since the government does not have enough resources to protect the forests in upland areas, the CBFMAs have become an effective alternative. This responsibility has been given to people organizations . However, with the automatic cancellation of all CBFMAs, our forests are now deprived of protection and our people, of their livelihood. Selective cancellation with criteria and due process is good, but not automatic arbitrary cancellation."

We are happy that Secretary Defensor has listened to the combined call of scientists and fishers.

A forum involving the DENR, scientists, fishers, upland farmers and indigenous peoples on this issue to stop injustice and come up with a win-win solution will be held on Jan. 24, at 9:30 a.m.. This will be at the Philippine Social Science Center, Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City. It is free and open to the public (call Dinna Umengan at 926-4415 for details).

In "Sleepless in Seattle", the characters of Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan met through radio and achieved happiness. While sleepless in Hong Kong, the fishers united with scientists in the Philippines through e-mail and had succeeded in opposing the original AO24.

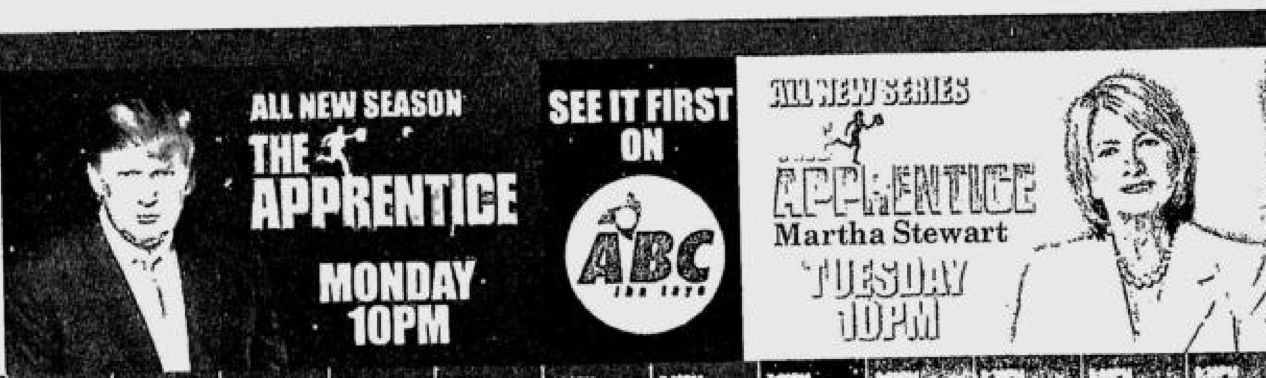
It is hoped that greater unity will be forged between scientists and our less privileged sectors such as fisherfolk, farmers and indigenous peoples. This way, equitable progress and prosperity will hopefully be achieved in our nation.

(For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635.)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Monday, January 23, 2006



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Channel	2:30PM	[illegible]	[illegible]	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	11:30PM
ABC 5			Winner TV Shopping		Spoud		TNA Impact		Sentro	Friends	Guinness Book Of Record		Fear Factor		Big News	The Apprentice		Totoo TV	
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Little Amy	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Amazing Twins	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Gulong Ng Palad	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Only You	Vietnam Rose	Forbidden Love	OK Fine! Whatever			Insider
AXN		SWAT Police			Worst Case Scenario		E Buzz	PSI Factor (Season III)		24		Maximum Exposure (Season II)		The 4400 (Season 2)		CSI Crime Scene Investigation (Season 4)		CSI Crime Scene Investigation (Season 4)	
Cartoon Network	Johnny Bravo	Dexter's Laboratory	Powerpuff Girls	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Codename Kids Next Door		The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy		Power Rangers Wild Force	The Gransazers	Battle B-Daman	Machine Robo-Rescue	X-Men Evolution	Samurai Jack	Justice League	Static Shock	Power Rangers Wild Force	The Gransazers
Cinema One		Solaro				Maging Akin Ka Lamang				Home Along Da River				Bruing Walang Ringring				Pakisabi Na Lang Na Mahal Ko Siya	
Cinemax				The Appaloosa			A League Of Their Own (5:45 PM)					Three Way			Mad Max (9:25 PM)			Necessary Roughness (10:35PM)	
CNN				Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International		World News Asia		World News	Living Golf	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
Discovery Channel				Monster Garage		Journey Through The Valley Of The Kings		Deadliest Season In The World		Wild Discovery		Colour Of War		Engineering Against Disaster		Deadliest Season In The World		The New Detectives	
Disney Channel	Mr Bean The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Lilo & Stitch	Sabrina The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr Bean The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Black Hole High	So Little Time	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN						Boxing Series Friday Night Fights				English Premier League Highlights		Sportscenter Asia	NFL Playoffs AFC Championship Game						Sportscenter Asia
ETC		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Knock First	Ambush Makeover	Seinfeld	Committed	Love Shack		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		ET Weekend		Nip/ Tuck	
EWTN	Benediction And Devotion Encore	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Bible Treasure Chest	Image Of God	St. Thomas More Faithful Statesman	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Voices On Virtue	EWTN Gallery	The Catholic Faith & Vatican II	Sunday Night With (Encore) Fr. Benedict Groeschel		Threshold Of Hope		Daily Mass (SAP) Live		Angelus (10:15PM)	Defending Life	Catholic Compass	
Fox News		Fox Report Sunday		Beltway Boys	Fox News Watch	Bulls & Bears	Cavuto On Business	Forbes On Fox	Cashin' In	Fox & Friends				Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Date With Tiffany		Dragonball Z	Slam Dunk	Frog Prince	24 Oras		Extra Challenge	Sugo	Etheria	Starstruck 3	Jewel In The Palace/Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita			Saksi		
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched IV	Doc Martin		Fielder's Choice (3:50 PM)			Who's The Boss? II	Bewitched IV	The Nanny	Strong Medicine		Judging Amy		Mura Doctour Rey			McLeod's Daughters IV		Strong Medicine
HBO		Mermaids (3:15 PM)			Six: The Mark Unleashed				Conspiracy Theory (6:45 PM)					Losing Isaiah			Hollywood Homicide		
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Krusada Kontra Krimen		Home Shopping Network		ME TV		Basketball Show		The Scene	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Late Show David Letterman		Bottomline		Afterburn		Samurai Jack	Beat The Geeks	Mad TV		That 70s Show	Arrested Development	The Late Show David Letterman		Jack In The Box			
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Food 911	E! Extra Ultimate H'wood Blonde		NY Fashion Week	Life & Style		Living Space	Style Star	Breathing Room	Genuine Article
MTV Philippines	Rockola	MTV Ask	Chart Attack		Viva La Bam	Pop Inc.		MTV Hits			Aeon Flux	Massive	Get Spotted	TRL		The 70's House	Wild N' Out	Homecoming	VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	MYXLOG	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten			Mobile MYX Top Picks	Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
National Geographic		Amazing Moments		Wild Sex		Snake Wranglers	Totally Wild	Top 5		Wow!		About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Triumph Of Life		Wild Sex	
NBN		Value Vision		Value Vision		Teledyaryo	Dyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo				Dial M		Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	Chinese New Yr Animal Stunt	Chinese New Yr Animal Stunt	All That	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	Drake & Josh	The Fairly Odd Parents	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Chalkzone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	The Brothers Garcia
PBO			Bokyo				Anghel Sa Lupa				Nancy Zuniga Concert				Kung Kasalanan Man				Hayop Sa Sex Appeal
Qtv		Bodyguard	Striker Hungry Heart	The Prince Of Tennis	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Love At Aegean Sea	Hoteller	All In	Laugh To Laugh, Ang Kulit	H3O Hahaha.. Over!		News On Q	Ugo Ng Kasutuhan		MINT (Music Interactive)	
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	As Told By Ginger	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Score Tactics	NBA On RPN					Newswatch Now	Simple Life 2	Corge For Truth	
SBN 21				New Life TV Shopping				Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		SBN Music Video			
Solar Sports		Denmark Open Men's Singles SF		Copenhagen Masters 2005		Swatch FIVB World Tour '05 Dubai Men's Finals				NBA Special Giants of the Game		Sportsdesk							
Sports Plus				Ultimate Fighting Championship Special						AFC and NFC Championship Games						Bob Hope Chrysler Classic Final rd.			
Star Movies				Dark Harvest			K-911 (5:25 PM)			Raising Helen				A Murder Of Crows			Commando (10:45PM)		
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Angel		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Friends	My Wife And Kids	Everybody Loves Raymond	King Of Queens	Becker	Monk		Friends	My Wife And Kids
Studio 23		Yugioh Duel Monster						Get Backers	Spirits	Wazzup Wazzup	The Swan Season 2		Tru Calling (8:20 PM)	Charmed (9:10 PM)		News Central	The West Wing		Travel Time

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BSP approves initiative to improve lending to small farmers

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS HAS approved a fresh initiative to improve lending to small farmers in the countryside.

The BSP on Friday announced that its policy-making Monetary Board had approved the classification of the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines-Microenterprise Access to Banking Services (RBAP-MABS) as a microfinance loan.

In the past, small loans to farmers or micro-agri loans were considered agricultural credit, thus requiring traditional collateral and stringent documentary requirements.

"These conditions have become the major barrier for small farmers seeking access to much-needed financial services to increase their economic activity," the BSP said in a statement.

With the new classification, the loans will now enjoy the benefits of microfinance such as the acceptance of cash collateral, cash flow and character-based lending in lieu of traditional collateral, small and frequent amortization, and simpler documentary requirements.

RBAP-MABS, a technical assistance service to over 250 banking units with microfinance operations, has patterned the micro-agri loan product after the typical microenterprise loan utilizing the same methodology and upholding the same standards and best practices.

The BSP said this approval indicated its "sustained responsiveness to the developments of the microfinance sector as well as the needs of the small farmers in rural areas."

Certain conditions, however, were set for micro-agri loans to be classified as microfinance loans:

- The prospective client must have other sources of income aside from the agricultural activity, sufficient for the periodic payment of loans;
- The criteria/characteristics of a microfinance loan as provided in the existing regulations must be present; and
- The micro-agri loan must be in the bank's microfinance manual as one of the products offered and must have a sub-control ledger.

Microfinance, which has been typically linked to financial services for livelihood activities or microenterprise lending, has been proven successful as a viable undertaking.

The loans are small, from a low of P2,000 to P5,000, to a maximum of P500,000. The likelihood of default of the entire loan balance is great when an amortization payment is missed. However, the delinquency rate of microfinancing in the Philippines is very low at 3 to 5 percent.

"The move by the BSP has shown that, when applied appropriately, this technology could be extended to other types of products and services," the BSP said.

Technical ...

From page B1

On a weekly basis, the market fell 40.02 points or 1.86 percent. It closed Friday at 2,108.24.

"The index failed in its attempt to breach the 2,172 mark and looks to be entering a consolidation mode," AB Capital said.

On the positive side, however, investors are counting on the full implementation of the VAT Law next week to push prices higher.

"When the dust settles, the only major catalyst for the market will be the full implementation of the expanded value-added tax law by Feb. 1," the stock brokerage firm said. "This will shift the market's attention away from the coup worries and bring investors back from the sidelines."

"Despite the market's recent weakness, many are still optimistic about 2006's prospects because of hopes for an end to the government's fiscal woes, a retreat in oil prices and strong foreign demand for Philippine stocks," AB Capital said.

Stocks to watch this week include banking issues, especially after the central bank revealed that the industry's loan portfolio was showing signs of life toward the end of 2005. *Daxim L. Lucas*

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Dr. de Leon is the President & CEO of Mercer Human Resource Consulting in the Philippines. He has more than 25 years of experience in HR Management and Information Technology. He has been involved in various foreign and local projects relating to organizational development, change management, compensation strategy development, base pay and rewards design, performance management, competency profiling and strategic planning.

He is also the author of numerous published articles. For more than 10 years now, he regularly facilitates public seminars and has been invited to lecture on various topics both in the academe and the business world. He also teaches in the business graduate school on a part-time basis.

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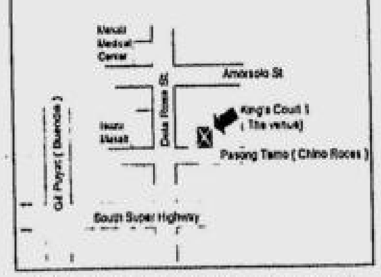

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University of the Philippines College of Medicine
CENTENNIAL GRAND SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM

MESSAGES

My most cordial greetings to the University of the Philippines College of Medicine as you hold your Centennial Grand Scientific Symposium (GSS).

This symposium is very timely and relevant as it stresses the crucial role of healthcare providers during emergencies and disasters. I congratulate the organizers for initiating this event aimed at improving the medical knowledge of our healthcare providers and of the public in general.

Lest we forget, we remain vulnerable to the destructive forces of nature, such as typhoons, landslides and earthquakes that frequently hit our country. I am confident that this gathering of medical practitioners, paramedical professionals and community healthcare providers will help us avert, or at least lessen, the damage to life and property caused by these natural disasters.

Now, more than ever, we have to be more prepared and vigilant in the rescue and rehabilitation of victims. Let us work together to beat the odds and ensure the health and safety of our people.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

(Sgd) GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
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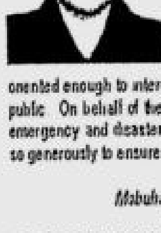

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January 22 - 25, 2006 The Manila Hotel, Philippines http://centennial.up-gss.org

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Department of Health
Department of Interior and Local Government
National Disaster Coordinating Council

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Dapat Sulit.
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RFM Corporation	Wyeth Philippines Inc.
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- Model for Crisis Counseling

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- Disaster Preparedness. Blood Transfusion Issues
- Information & Communications Technology in Disasters & Emergencies
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- First Aid: Eye Emergencies
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For inquiries, call the Centennial Grand Scientific Symposium Secretariat at (632) 426-0093. Visit the website at http://centennial.up-gss.org

University of the Philippines College of Medicine
CENTENNIAL GRAND SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM

MESSAGES

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This symposium is very timely and relevant as it stresses the crucial role of healthcare providers during emergencies and disasters. I congratulate the organizers for initiating this event aimed at improving the medical knowledge of our healthcare providers and of the public in general.

Lest we forget, we remain vulnerable to the destructive forces of nature, such as typhoons, landslides and earthquakes that frequently hit our country. I am confident that this gathering of medical practitioners, paramedical professionals and community healthcare providers will help us avert, or at least lessen, the damage to life and property caused by these natural disasters.

Now, more than ever, we have to be more prepared and vigilant in the rescue and rehabilitation of victims. Let us work together to beat the odds and ensure the health and safety of our people.

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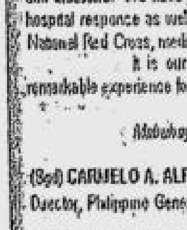

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Plenary 3: Microbe Attacks, Environmental Disasters and Epidemics

CERTIFICATE COURSES

WHOLE-DAY SESSIONS
- Basic Life Support Course
- Community Disaster Preparedness Training
- Model for Crisis Counseling

HALF-DAY SESSIONS
- First Aid First Responder
- First Aid Pediatric Home Emergencies
- Disaster Preparedness: Blood Transfusion Issues
- Information & Communications Technology in Disasters & Emergencies
- Geriatric Home Emergencies
- First Aid Eye Emergencies
- First Aid ENT Emergencies

For inquiries, call the Centennial Grand Scientific Symposium Secretariat at (632) 426-0093. Visit the website at http://centennial.up-gss.org

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Nestlé, Powerbooks bring life to Narnia

SNOWCAPPED MOUNTAINS, frost-covered trees, a half man, half-goat creature with an umbrella, a centaur, a mean looking witch dressed in white and riding in a sleigh. These are just some of the sceneries, things and creatures that greeted individuals brave enough or curious enough to step inside the giant wardrobe Jan. 7 and 8 as Nestlé Koko Krunch and Powerbooks transformed the Glorietta Activity Center into the mythical land of Narnia, the setting of "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe," the classic tale written by CS Lewis which was turned into a major motion picture now showing in theaters nationwide. In fact, if not for the leftover holiday decorations and the regular hustle and bustle of a shopping mall on a weekend, one would have thought of actually being in the land where "it is always winter but never Christmas."

The young and the young at heart came in droves-more than 20,000 of them to be more exact-during the two-day event. As early as 10 a.m., "Sons of Adam" and "Daughters of Eve" were seen tugging their parents to the different booths, nooks and corners which featured activities such as an "Encounter with the White Witch", where kids had their pictures taken with a live White Witch; a Narnian Face Painter's Alley, where kids had their faces painted to be transformed into a Narnian creature of their choice; a Narnia Arts and Crafts booth, where kids showed their talents in drawing and coloring their favorite Narnia scene with Koko and the Narnia Snowball Dive corner, where kids won goodies by diving into a pool full prize-laden balls.

A CHILD inspects the contents of her Koko Kit

There was also the Narnia storytelling corner and the Narnia Bookland by Powersbooks, where different editions of the Narnia books were showcased. And at the center of the virtual Narnia is a very familiar landmark to all Narnia fans, a lamppost, flanked by a centaur and one of the most beloved characters in the book, the half-man, half-goat, Mr. Tumnus, the faun. The creatures magically come to life every time kids shout the magic word, "Koko!"

The kids and their parents didn't seem to mind the long queues for the different activities as they were entertained with a variety show on stage. Hosted by television personalities Drew Arellano and Iya Villania, the show featured games, a singing performance, a magic show and a spectacular staging of excerpts from "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe" by renowned theater group Trumpets.

Aside from the activities, the kids who came to the two-day event also can't seem to get enough of the free Koko Krunch, the delicious chocolaty breakfast cereal from Nestlé. Koko Krunch is made from energy-giving wheat and is packed with 10 essential vitamins and minerals. No wonder the kids in the event didn't seem to run out of steam as they dash from one booth to the next and as they participate in all the activities.

With all the fun, excitement and magic, the two-day Narnia fest was definitely an event to remember. Thanks to Koko Krunch and Powerbooks for bringing the magical world of Narnia to life!

You can still get free limited edition patented Chronicles of Narnia collectible premiums such as color changing Chronicles of Narnia Statues or scene morphing Magical Wardrobes for every purchase of large or medium packs of Koko Krunch, Honey Stars, Milo Cereal, Cookie Crisp, Trix and Corn Flakes in leading stores and supermarkets.

QUAKER
"72% lowered
TOTAL CHOLESTEROL

QUAKER OATMEAL SMART HEART CHALLENGE

95 employees of Abenson Inc participated in the challenge, and took Quaker Oatmeal for breakfast for a period of 30 days. 72% of them lowered Total Cholesterol levels by an average of 25 points, while 78% lowered bad cholesterol levels by an average of 24 points. 34-year-old Abenson driver Imperial is this year's biggest winner, bringing down his cholesterol level by 74.2 points; his bad cholesterol level by 76.2; and his triglyceride level by 19.2 points. Shown, from left, are Jagrut Kotecha, commercial director, Pepsico Foods; Cynthia Siy, systems manager, Abenson Inc, Ike Arlanza- 2nd prize winner; Wilfredo Imperial, 1st prize winner; Joanne Lim, business development manager, Abenson Inc; Varun Berry, country manager, Pepsico Inc Philippine branch.

HONDA'S FINEST TECHNICIANS

To achieve total customer satisfaction, Honda Cars Philippines Inc (HCPI) recently held the 10th Annual National Technician's and Service Advisor's Contest-a technical skills contest among Honda service technicians and advisors. This annual event is held to continuously upgrade the technicians' skills, especially on new repair techniques, as well as promote customer confidence on Honda's frontline technicians. This year's technician category winners were Ruben Sibayan (champion) from Honda Cars Pasig, Cris Par (1st runner-up) from Honda Cars Manila and Romie Padrones (2nd runner-up) of Honda Cars Cagayan de Oro. Danilo D. Pedro, HCPI AVP for marketing service, said the event encourages Honda technicians to always do quality work with speed and precision. Over the past 10 years, he added, there had been a close correlation between technician skill level and customer satisfaction level. The contest was held at Honda Cars Shaw and consisted of practical and written tests. Winners will represent the Philippines in the coming 9th Asia-Oceania Technician's Contest to be held in Japan tentatively set this October. Shown are (from left, front row): Sibayan, Par, and Padrones. Back row, from left, are Danny Pedro, national service department head of HCPI, Takashi Sekiguchi, president and GM of HCPI, Reggie See, Honda Cars Pasig service manager, and Louie Santamaria, branch manager of Honda Cars Pasig.

MICROTEX NAMED NO. 1 AUTOMOTIVE CLEANING CLOTH BRAND

Microtex was awarded as the No. 1 Automotive Cleaning Cloth Brand (national) during the recently concluded 2005 National Shoppers' Choice Annual Awards held at Dusit Hotel Nikko. Shown are (from left) Carla Gay Balingit Bb. Pilipinas Universe 2003; lawyer Manuel Jose Oyson III, awards committee chair and vice president, C.P.M. Society of the Philippines; Charles Yap, president and CEO Halden Galway International Corporation, exclusive distributor of Microtex cleaning cloths; Dr. Corazon Claudio, president and vice chair of the board, Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication; and Joan Peñalosa, Bb. Pilipinas Universe 2000. The National Shoppers' Choice Awards is an annual event which aims to give recognition to the most outstanding companies and brands in the Philippines. Microtex is the only cleaning cloth today that uses the microfiber technology.

GLOBE TELECOM WORKERS UNION
FEDERATION OF FREE WORKERS
CBA SIGNING 2006 - 2010

GLOBE TELECOM, GTWU-FFW SIGN 2006 CBA

Globe Telecom Inc and its rank-and-file union Globe Telecom Workers Union-Federation of Free Workers (GTWU-FFW) have formally signed the 2006 to 2010 collective bargaining agreement Jan. 10. Sealing the agreement were Globe president and chief executive officer Gerardo C. Ablaza Jr in behalf of the management and GTWU-FFW president Santos F. Gudao Jr in behalf of the labor union, with Globe chair Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II and National Conciliation and Mediation Board Deputy Executive Director Reynaldo R. Ubaldo witnessing the event. Shown are (from left) Globe senior vice president Rodolfo A. Salalima, Globe wireless network technical group head Teresa V. Kong, Zobel, Ablaza, Gudao, FFW national vice president Allan Montano, GTWU vice president Angelito Banaga and GTWU secretary Salvacion Luzano.

New GMA Kapuso Foundation appointment

GMA KAPUSO FOUNDATION recently welcomed its new executive director Manuel "Nonie" B. Dela Fuente Jr.

A gifted trainor-formator, Nonie has spent 12 years in the Society of Jesus as a religious-in-training and was an educator for 14 years in several well-respected learning institutions.

His zest for learning and reaching out to more individuals who are genuinely interested in loving and serving others places him in an environment wherein his passion would be best put to use.

Dela Fuente graduated with a degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with Humanities Cluster at the Ateneo de Manila University. He took his Masters degree in Literature from the same institution wherein he earned his extra MA credits in Theology and Philosophy as well.

He has also taught in Thames International Business School (Manila), Xavier University High School (Cagayan De Oro City) and Ateneo High School (in Zamboanga, Davao and Manila).

GMA Kapuso Foundation has gently established itself as a working institution that feels the need of the less fortunate and the sounding board for individuals who cannot afford a decent medical aid for their illnesses.

Banana Leaf partners with top financial institutions

FRIENDS AND LOYAL habitues of banana leaf, Manila's premiere Asian restaurant, are in for a treat with its recent partnership with HSBC, Citibank, and American Express.

All HSBC credit cardholders except Mabuhay Miles Visa are entitled to a special 10-percent discount on their total bill for every single receipt, dine-in purchase. They may also avail themselves of the free order of Roti Canai. For an even sweeter deal, cardholders may also avail themselves of a free order of dessert of their choice for a minimum single-receipt, dine-in purchase of P500. Mabuhay Miles Visa cardholders, on the other hand, are entitled to the "Triple the Miles Promo."

Cardholders of Citibank (Gold and Platinum), American Express, and Platinum Plan holders of Globe Handyphone, are also in for a lot of special treats each time they visit any of the Banana Leaf and Asian Café outlets. Citibank cardholders get a 10-percent discount, while Amex cardholders get a 15-percent discount.

Banana Leaf has also partnered with the Oakwood Premiere Residences, wherein guests are entitled to special perks like 15 percent off on cash, 10 percent off on charge by presenting the Exclusive Banana Leaf/Oakwood VIP Card when they dine at Banana Leaf.

Check out Banana Leaf's newest P399 Weekend Buffet held every Friday, Saturday and Sunday at the Alabang Town Center branch. The weekend feast offers a wide selection of culinary delights from all over the Southeast Asian region. Banana Leaf also offers banquet packages for corporate functions, wedding and baptismal receptions, and birthday celebrations.

Visit its branches at the 2/F The Podium, ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center (687-6808; 687-6818); Theater Drive, Alabang Town Center (772-8833; 772-8899). You may also try the Asian Café at G/FGlorietta IV, Ayala Center (818-6988; 8186989); and at the Concourse Level, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center.

Clips

'Appreciating Nyonya Cuisine'

CRAVING TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ASIAN CUIsine? Be part of San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center's first destination tour in Asia titled "Appreciating Nyonya Cuisine" with food enthusiast Danny Dela Cuesta. Discover and understand Nyonya cuisine that originated in Penang and Singapore, and is known for its unique blend of Malay and Chinese cooking styles characterized by sweet, sour and bold flavors. Experience gastronomic treats on Tuesday, Jan. 24 at the San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center, Legaspi corner Eagle Streets, Barrio Ugong, Pasig City. This cooking demonstration will be from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. with a fee of P800. Call 671-9876 locals 402, 2771, 404 and 405. Limited slots are available. For upcoming events and more recipe ideas, log on to www.mygreatfood.com.

FEU IN 50th year

FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE OF NURSing invites all its graduates and undergraduates as it celebrates its 50th anniversary through a grand homecoming to be held from Jan. 26 to 29. The event features four days of diverse activities, including community volunteer work, investment opportunity tours and the Outstanding Nursing Alumni Awarding ceremony. For details, call Norma Dumadag through e-mail address lpalaypay@feu.edu.ph or Arthur Cantos at acantos@bayaninurse.com or the FEU Institute of Nursing at 735-8713. You may also log on to the FEU website at www.feu.edu.ph. Join your fellow students as FEU celebrates "Nursing At Its Best".

Delivering presentations

CRAFTING AND MAKING A WINNING PRESENTAtion-whether to close a deal, make an appeal, or to simply deliver progress reports-is among the most practical yet important challenges confronting managers and professionals at all levels of the organization. But delivering a presentation need not be an unpleasant chore, says leading business communication trainer and consultant Monette Iturralde-Hamlin. In the seminar, "Effective Presentation skills for Decision-makers," Iturralde-Hamlin will address common presentation challenges and provide proven techniques for delivering successful presentations, enabling participants to enhance their self-confidence, cut preparation time, produce compelling visuals, and develop the savvy to manage audiences. The seminar takes place Jan. 26 at the Exportbank Plaza, Makati City. For details, call 757-3500 local 327.

Republic of the Philippines
City Government of Zamboanga
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
City Hall, Zamboanga City
Tel. No : (062) 992-7763

Solicitation No.: CW-06-0123-001

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Construction of Covered Shed at Commercial Center, Bagsakan, Sta. Maria, ZC
(Name of Project)

Construction of roofed shed & stalls, calling for masonry, carpentry and electrical works with painting
(Brief Description of Works)

1 The CITY GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBOANGA, through the General Fund (Supplemental Budget) FY-2005 intends to apply the sum of SIX MILLION FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P6,451,500.00) ONLY being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Construction of Covered Shed at Commercial Center, Bagsakan, Sta. Maria, ZC. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening

2. The CITY GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBOANGA now calls for the submission of Letter of Intent (LOI) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for *Construction of roofed shed & stalls, calling for masonry, carpentry and electrical works with painting* Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC and to meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs on or before February 8, 2006 at Procurement, Acquisition and Awards Office, City Hall, Zamboanga City and secure the Eligibility Documents there from. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day of the submission of the accomplished eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents on February 8, 2006 at 10 00 A.M in the Procurement, Acquisition and Awards Office, City Hall, Zamboanga City Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act" and is restricted unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines In accordance with the IRR-A of RA 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification

4. Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the BAC Secretariat at Procurement Acquisition and Awards Office, City Hall, Zamboanga City on or before February 8, 2006 at 10 00 A M.

5. Interested Eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the CITY GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBOANGA and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8.00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. starting February 8 to 22, 2006.

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchase by Bidder that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P3,000.00 The Bidding documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on or before February 22, 2006 at 10 00 A M

7 The CITY GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBOANGA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on February 22, 2006 at 10 00 A.M. in the City Engineer's Office, Conference Room, City Hall, Zamboanga City

8. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before March 8, 2006 at 10:00 A.M. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of Cash, Check, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check payable to the City Treasurer, Bank Draft, Irrevocable Letter of Credit and in an amount of P64,515.00 or Bank Guarantee in the amount of P96,772.50 or Surety Bond in the amount of P161,287.50 or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency Late Bids shall not be accepted Bid opening shall be on March 8, 2006 at 10.00 A.M. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at 10 00 A M in the City Engineer's Office, Conference Room, City Hall, Zamboanga City.

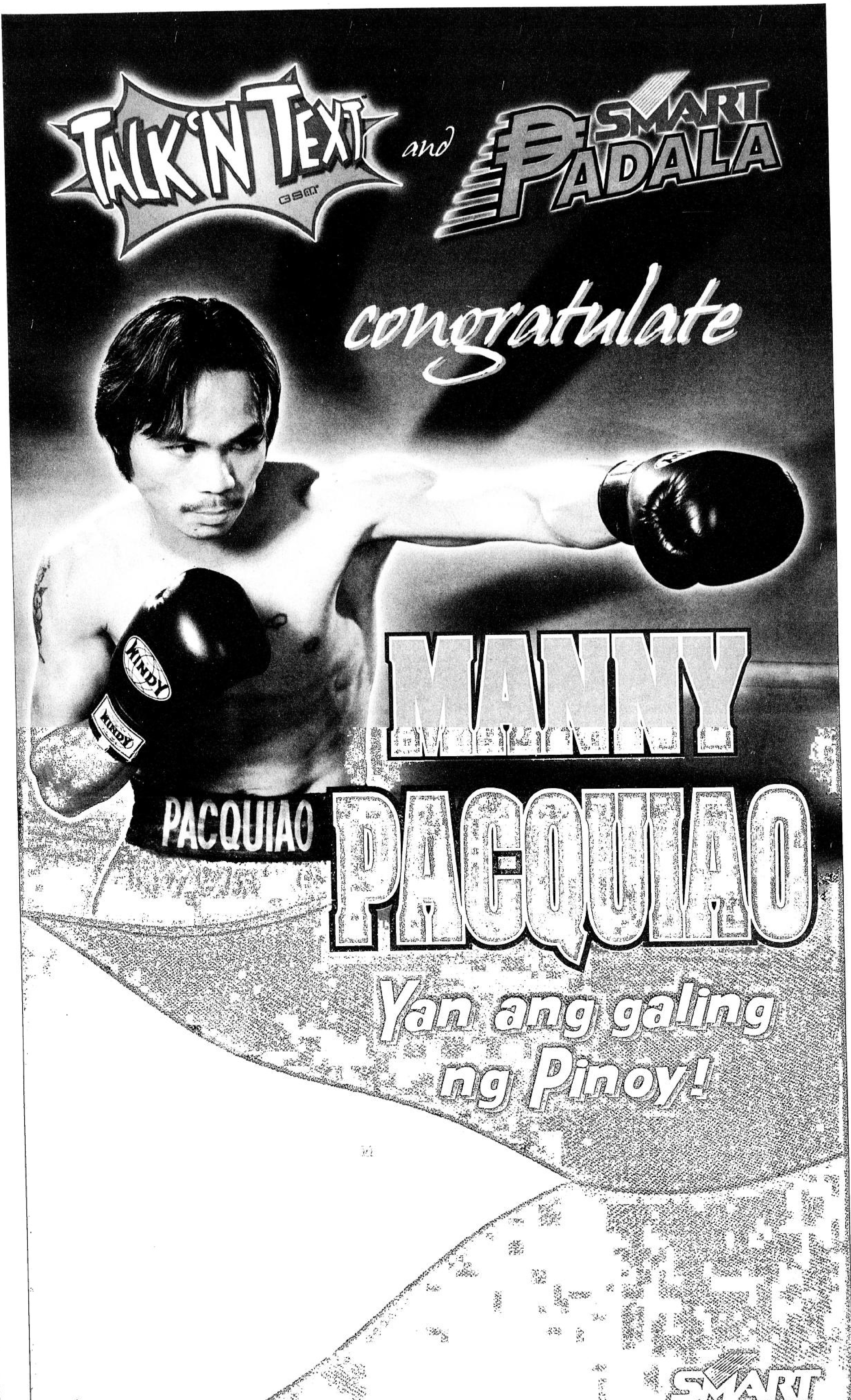
9. Completion of the Works is required by Two Hundred Three (203) calendar days.

10 The CITY GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBOANGA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

Procurement, Acquisition and Awards Division
Milagros WS, Saavedra
City Hall, N S Valderosa Street
Zamboanga City
Tel No (062) 991-0862
Telefax No (062) 992-7763

(Sgd.) DR. MARIO D. ARRIOLA
BAC Chairman

(PDI - January 23 & 30, 2006)



TALK 'N TEXT GSM and SMART PADALA

congratulate

MANNY PACQUIAO

Yan ang galing ng Pinoy!

KINDY
PACQUIAO

SMART
Simply Amazing!

Globe G-Cash, PFCCO tie up

THE WORLD'S FIRST CASHLESS and cardless mobile commerce service, Globe G-Cash, strengthens its thrust as an enabler of economic empowerment by partnering with the Philippine Federation of Credit Cooperatives (PFCCO). This tie-up will allow mobile payment and disbursement of loans from the member cooperatives. The partnership is also seen to complement other strategic linkages established by G-Cash which focus on micro-finance and livelihood projects.

The PFCCO has 980 primary cooperatives and 8 major leagues nationwide, with a mass base of over 1,000,000 individual members. "This tie-up further advances our vision for G-Cash, which is to bring m-commerce technology to the grassroots level and use it as a means for poverty alleviation and livelihood enhancement," says G-Xchange president Joey Mendoza. "The key lessons and best practices from our earlier partnerships can also be applied to our alliance with the PFCCO, enabling us to bring improved micro-finance services to the countryside."

In addition, tie-ups have also been initiated with Globe AutoloadMAX and TM (the new Touch Mobile), which are also being eyed as possible enablers of livelihood programs and viable business models. TM, on the other hand, is seen as a suitable vehicle for bringing mobile communications technology to grassroots consumers because of its affordable rates and specific services tailored for the mass market.

PFCCO general manager Dave Pajaron adds: "This partnership can serve as an effective livelihood program, since the PFCCO counts Globe AutoloadMAX sub- distributors and G-Cash cash-in/cash-out centers among its members. It also expands the reach of Globe's m-commerce services even in remote areas. More than 400 of our member cooperatives are based in Mindanao, where a cost-efficient and convenient means of loan collection and disbursement would be of great help to developing micro-enterprises."

CECOPHIL SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH VECAS OF VIETNAM

The Council of Engineering Consultants of the Philippines (Cecophil) and the Vietnam Engineering Consultant Association (Vecas) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishing an inter-organization agreement to develop and promote issues relevant to the engineering and consultancy professions in Vietnam and the Philippines thereby facilitating commerce between the two countries. The memorandum was developed in the spirit of exchange between equal partners representing an opportunity for the shared development of the engineering profession and a source of mutual improvement. Shown signing the agreement are (from left): Salvador P. Castro, president of Cecophil and chair of SPCastro & Associates Inc; and Nguyen Canh Chat, chair of Vecas. Witnessing the formal signing are (standing from left): Vu Ngoc Than, deputy director, Ministry of Construction; Le Doan Phach, consultant; Le Du Son, chief of VECAS; Dan Van Van, member of Architects Association; Nguyen Dinh Tranh, manager, Transport Engineering Design Inc; Phan Thu Hang, economic expert, international relations assistant and Nguyen Viet Nguyen, vice director of Consultancy Development and Training Center, Vecas.

Convergys receives Frost & Sullivan 2005 Award

FROST & SULLIVAN, A GLOBAL LEADer in growth consulting, has announced that Convergys Corp (NYSE: CVG) is the recipient of its 2005 Award for Competitive Strategy Leadership in CRM and Billing for Communications.

Frost & Sullivan presents the award each year to a company whose strategy has yielded significant gains in market share during a specific period. To determine the award's recipient, Frost & Sullivan conducted extensive research on CRM and Billing software markets in the Communications and Utilities industries, gathering data from leading software vendors, systems integrators, and end-users.

Convergys was chosen because a combined product and consulting strategy positioned it for growth during the economic recovery of 2003. During the downturn, the company invested in next generation software via acquisitions and in-house development of its flagship Business Support System (BSS) software, Infinys. Further, the company created Professional Services offerings to leverage its unique and relevant experience in both billing and customer care. When the economy recovered, providers were able to increase capital expenditures for software and Professional Services, which played right into Convergys' new strengths.

"We saw increased demand for software applications that efficiently support converged services such as video voice, data, and wireless ("quadruple play") and customer-centricity, which Infinys delivers. In fact, it's the only BSS product on the market that offers true convergence," said Larry Schwartz, executive vice president of operations for Convergys' information management group. "Infinys' component architecture is also appealing to providers who want to deploy new capabilities one step at a time through best-of-breed, packaged software rather than replacing their entire systems all at once with custom, end-to-end solutions. The creation of our Professional Services Consulting organization enabled us to gain new business while growing revenues with existing clients. Together our product and consulting capabilities have proven to be a powerful combination in the marketplace."

"Convergys' 2004 software license and other revenues totaled $77.1 Million, a 32 percent growth over 2003, demonstrating its effective alignment with recent market changes," said Frost and Sullivan analyst Ashwin Iyer. "Many other vendors in this market including Amdocs, CSG Systems, DST Innovis, Portal Software and Intec have in recent times launched their own next generation products for the convergent CSP. We expect Convergys to realize significant gains in market share thanks to Infinys' convergent capabilities in Billing and CRM through its Customer Service Management application."

"We're honored to receive this award from Frost & Sullivan," said Schwartz. "We feel that our proven ability to envision and execute sound market-driven strategies combined with the breadth and depth of our solution portfolio continue to provide strong competitive advantage in this market, as evidenced by our success in key BSS growth areas like wireless, data services, and customer service management. We're pleased that Frost & Sullivan recognizes this."

PHILIPPINES PLACES 3RD IN INT'L DANCESPORT COMPETITION

The Philippines participated in the '2nd Imperial Society of Teachers of Dance (ISTD) Cup Medallist Pro-Am Competition held last Sept. 25 at the University, Hk International Trade and Exhibition Center, Hongkong. This was an open international dancesport competition participated by professional teachers and students coming from Hongkong, Macau, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Taiwan, with adjudicators from several countries. The Philippines was represented by an international accredited professional teacher, Robert Limen and his student, Lina Gison. Notwithstanding the fact that they had not much time to practice due to a short notice, the couple garnered third place in the teacher and student event for Standard Dance. The Philippines has been, steadily gaining recognition in the area of international dancesport competition. Dancesport requires technical and artistic skills, stamina and strength. With the Filipino natural flair for artistry and with more training and dedication, we can expect the Filipino dancesport competitors can bring home more achievements in this area of sports. Shown are the Philippine representatives who won in the Hongkong Pro-Am competition, Robert Limen (teacher) and Lina Gison (student).

CLUB FILIPINO INAUGURATES GIMNASIO

Club Filipino recently inaugurated its new state of the art gym called Gimnasio. First photo shows the cutting of the ribbon by the club's president, lawyer Roberto de Leon assisted by directors Anita Borromeo, Albert Castro, Romeo Cabungcal and Alfonso Sto. Domingo, also in photo is Linda Ibuna. Second photo shows lawyer Roberto de Leon, president, former director Sergio Lopez, Paolo Baron, Randy Se, gym instructor, and representatives from the suppliers of the gym equipment.

WORLDBEX SERVICES INT'L, AYALA CENTER CEBU MOA SIGNING

Worldbex Services International (WSI) has finalized its agreement with Ayala Center Cebu, making the latter a supporting partner for the WSI-organized 1st Cebu Motor Show, slated on June 1 to 4, at the Ayala Center, Cebu City. Shown during the signing are (seated from left): Joseph Ang (Founding chair – Worldbex Services Int'l), Juvita Polloso (marketing manager – Ayala Center Cebu), Allan Aquino (marketing assistant – Ayala Center Cebu), Ella Roz (Worldbex Services Int'l).

HEALTH AND FITNESS EQUALS BEAUTY

For Regine Tolentino, a TV personality/dance studio directress, weight is a very important factor especially because she gains it very fast. To lose pounds or avoid gaining more of it, this graceful celeb makes sure she does everything to not only appear beautiful, but to keep healthy as well. For example, she teaches dance to children in her own studio as a workout. Regine also attends dance lessons with Jojo Tan and Egay of Splash Dancers as her choreographers. Rice is also a no-no, while sleep is super precious, especially because she has to wake up very early for a morning program she co-hosts in GMA 7. As much as possible, Regine stays away from fried food. She uses herbal dietary supplements to aid in her digestion and for extra energy. Sweets are her weakness but she plans to manage this craving by taking sugar-free foods and taking in low-calorie sweeteners like Equal.

IABC CITES URC EXEC IN CEO EXCEL AWARD 2005

Bienvenido 'Pet' Bautista, executive vice president and managing director of Universal Robina Corp (URC), was recently awarded the Communications Excellence in Organizations (CEO) Award for 2005 by the International Association for Business Communicators (IABC). Held at the Hotel InterContinental Manila, the CEO Excel Award for 2005 recognized senior executives who effectively use communication in enhancing the organization, thus achieving key objectives and improving profitability. Some of Bautista's most notable projects in this area are: the State of the Business Meeting (SOBM), which cascades information relevant to business operations, to all employees regardless of rank; the Salu-Salo, a monthly get-together with selected employees in an atmosphere of transparency, camaraderie and fun; and Pet's Corner, Bautista's regular column in the company newsletter. IABC, the local chapter of an exclusive international network of more than 13,000 business communication professionals in over 60 countries, holds this annual event to raise public awareness of the importance of communication in business and organizational management. IABC likewise aims to recognize the top-level executives who have shown extraordinary skills as communicators, and to present their accomplishments as models of best practices in organizational communication.

MELC invites you to look better, feel better, see better

CLEAR VISION IS NECESSARY IN daily living and enjoying life. To wake up each morning without having to grapple for eyeglasses is an indescribable freedom to many. Eliminating the daily hassle of contact lens use reduces expenditure and stress. For millions of people all over the world who had to grow up with thick eyeglasses, laser vision correction has given them confidence and a new outlook in life. Makati Eye Laser Center offers these and a whole lot more with its customized laser vision correction, a treatment that truly brings a better quality of life.

Makati Eye Laser Center was established in 1995 as the Institute of Refractive Laser Surgery and has the widest experience in laser vision correction in the Philippines. True to its mission of providing the most advanced technology, it has been addressing the need for reading glasses after the age of 40. Lasik for Presbyopia is a multi-focal treatment which corrects distance and reading vision combined in a treatment for both eyes. Near Vision CK is a non-laser option to correct reading vision. For every man and woman above the age of 40, having to wear bifocals or having to bring out reading glasses to just read text messages, the newspaper, email or a board meeting agenda is now a thing of the past.

Makati Eye Laser Center's state-of-the-art technology and a facility which promises relaxation and privacy while providing expertise and personal care has given them a reputation for client satisfaction. Cataract surgery is done using the suture-less phacoemulsification technique. As with all treatments, effort is placed at making the 20 minute procedure a pleasant experience with no need for bandaging the eyes. Other services include diagnostic, medical and laser treatments for glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy and other eye problems. The health of one's eyes through the different stages of life as well as one's well-being is the foremost concern of the Makati Eye Laser Center.

Clear vision is enjoying the gift of sight throughout life. To catch a raindrop (and all other precious moments) requires full stereoscopic vision is not always resolved with eyeglasses or contact lenses. Laser Vision Correction is the answer to the problem of restoring clarity and focus, allowing panoramic vision. In a fast-paced world with so much to offer, all time clear vision is necessary. For over ten years, the Makati Eye Laser Center has helped thousands experience the joy and freedom from eyeglasses and contact lenses. To date, Makati Eye Laser Center stays true to its mission of providing the most advanced technology in the Philippines. With Presbyopic Lasik treatments and CustomVue, persons over the age of 40 will not need reading glasses or bifocals. With its new Wellness Program, Makati Eye Laser Center invites you to look better, feel better and see better.

Bits Clips

Festival Supermall January events

STARTING JAN. 15 UNTIL THE 28th, popular Chinese goods like porcelain wares, ceramics, good luck charms and the celebrated Chinese Moon Cake will be up for sale at the mall's Carousel Court. From Jan. 24 to Feb. 6, an exhibit of the most popular weapons in Chinese Medieval history and costumes of the famous Chinese Northern Lion and Unicorn will be held simultaneously at the mall's 2nd level main entrance and 3rd level Chef's Avenue. A mall-wide Chinese New Year sale will also be held from Jan. 27 to 29. Booklets with useful Feng Shui tips and containing a listing of Home shops at the fourth level will be given out to lucky customers. The centerpiece of the celebration will be the Chinese Lion Dragon Dance on Jan. 29 around the mall. On the same day, noted Chinese calligrapher Victor Wang will also be at the mall's Treasure Trove to educate interested mall patrons regarding the art of Chinese calligraphy. For a minimum P1, 000 purchase at any Chef's Avenue outlet or P500 at a Treasure Trove store of choice gives you the opportunity to discover the actual Chinese characters for your English name. For further information, you may call Festival Supermall Customer Service at 850-3514. Festival Supermall is located at the Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa.

BMW Phils appoints new dealer in Metro Manila

BMW PHILIPPINES HAS EXPANDED ITS AUTHOrized dealer network with the appointment of a new authorized dealer in Quezon City (Araneta-Quezon Avenue). With Klassik BMW, the leading premium car manufacturer is now represented by six authorized BMW dealership in the Philippines - four in Metro Manila to cover metropolitan areas; North West (Araneta-Quezon Avenue, Quezon City), North East (Libis, Quezon City), Central (Makati), and South (Alabang). In the provinces, BMW is present in Pampanga and Cebu. Klassik BMW is focusing on serving residents in the area north of Pasig River and west of EDSA, such as, Greenhills, Downtown Manila and the Quezon Avenue/Banawe/Del Monte area. Klassik BMW is a full fledged dealership offering the complete range of new and pre-owned BMW vehicles, aftersales services, genuine parts and accessories, as well as BMW lifestyle items. It is strategically located in Araneta Avenue near the corner of Quezon Avenue in Quezon City. Klassik BMW will start operations on Jan. 23. The official inauguration of the dealership will be take place in due course.

DCSJ Alumni Homecoming

ALL GRADUATES OF THE DOMINICAN COLLEGE in San Juan are invited to attend the Alumni Homecoming on Jan. 28 at the DC Auditorium. This alumni gathering is being hosted by the Silver Jubilarians, High School batch 1981. Registration starts at 12:30 p.m. Mass is at 1 p.m. followed by a short program and afternoon cocktails. Part of the homecoming program is the launch of the Top DC Alumna (Todcal). For more information, call Bettina Santos-Borbon at 724-5961 or e-mail dcbatch81@yahoo.com.

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III. Adult Pulmonary Medicine*
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* *Academic Year 2006 starts on April 1, 2006*

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VI. Pediatric Pulmonary Medicine**
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** *Deadline for submission of application is on February 17, 2006*
** *Academic Year 2006 starts on April 1, 2006*

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For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Carmela M. Ocasion or Ms. Cleopatra Q. Palencia with Tel. Nos. 925-2401 locals 3234, 3235, 3236 & 3237 and Telefax 926-9622, or you can email to: oer@phc.gov.ph

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IN THE MATTER OF
PRUDENTIALIFE FIXED INCOME FUND, INC.
Registration of Securities
x--------------------------x

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on January 4, 2006, a registration statement was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission for and on behalf of **PRUDENTIALIFE FIXED INCOME FUND, INC.** for the registration of its Three Hundred Million (300,000,000) common shares with the par value of One Peso (P1.00) per share or an aggregate par value of Three Hundred Million Pesos (P300,000,000.00). As of December 29, 2005, its Net Asset Value Per Share is P1.1966.

According to the papers/documents presented, the following persons are the officers/directors of the corporations:

NAME	POSITION
Jose Alberto T. Alba	Chairman/Director
Atty. Raymund P. Navarro	President/Director
Jose L. Santos	Director
Francisco A. Alba	Director
Paul Joseph M. Garcia	Independent Director
Antonio P. Gatmaitan	Director
Francisco T. Alba, Jr.	Director
Lyndon L. Lukban	Treasurer
Atty. Celerino A. Patiño	Corp. Secretary

The registration statement and other papers/documents attached thereto are open to inspection by interested parties during business hours and copies thereof, photostatic or otherwise shall be furnished to every party at such reasonable fees as the Commission may prescribe.

(Sgd.) JUSTINA F. CALLANGAN
Director

(PDI–Jan 16 & 23, 2006)

FCMC 11968/2005

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE
HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION
MATRIMONIAL CAUSES NO.11968 OF 2005

BETWEEN
TSANG LING LING (曾玲玲) Petitioner
and
ZHUANG JIANHUA (莊建華) Respondent

NOTICE

A Divorce Petition has been filed against the Respondent Zhuang Jianhua, of unknown address, who may apply to the Family Court Registry, Wanchai Law Courts, Wanchai Tower, No.12 Harbour Road, Hong Kong for a copy of the Petition. If within one month the Respondent has not communicated with the Registry, the Court may hear the case in his absence

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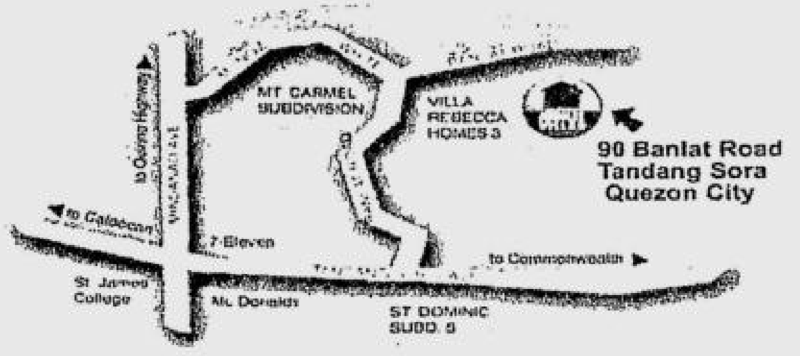

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Pag-IBIG Fund, Makati I Branch
The Atrium of Makati
Makati Avenue, City of Makati

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF MODULAR FURNITURE AND WORKSTATION AT PAG-IBIG FUND MAKATI BRANCH OFFICES

The Pag-IBIG Fund, through its Bids and Awards Committee-Makati I Branch (BAC) intends to apply the sum of P 14,237,299.00 being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the supply, delivery and installation of Modular Furniture and Workstation at Pag-IBIG Fund Makati Branch Offices. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The Pag-IBIG Fund now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the supply, delivery and installation of modular furniture and workstation at Pag-IBIG Fund Makati Branch Offices. Bidders must be duly registered with proper authorities and must possess necessary licenses and permits applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs on or before 5:00 p.m. of February 17, 2006 to the BAC Makati I Branch Secretariat at Room 709, 7/F Atrium of Makati Condominium Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City and secure the Eligibility and Bid Documents therefrom. The BAC Makati I Branch Secretariat will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility and Bid Forms, upon their submission of the LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) to the Pag-IBIG Fund Cashier. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility and Bid documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents: at 1:00 p.m. of February 20, 2006 at Room 709, 7/F, Atrium of Makati Condominium Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to Bid for the project. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A or R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Eligible Bidders may obtain further information from Pag-IBIG Fund Makati Branch at Room 709 at Telephone Nos. 8114181 and 8114275 and inspect the Bidding Documents from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on January 31, 2006.

The Pag-IBIG Fund will hold a Pre-Bid Conference at 1:00 p.m. on February 08, 2006 at the following address: Room 602, 6/F Atrium of Makati Condominium Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City.

Prospective Bidders must submit their Bids at Room 709, 7/F Atrium of Makati Condominium Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City on or before Feb. 20, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on the same date and time at Room 602, 6/F Atrium of Makati Condominium Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City.

The Pag-IBIG Fund reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) SEVERA ASTORGA BUQUID
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee-Makati Branch

(PDI – January 23 & 30, 2006)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late LEONCIA SANTOS has been extrajudicially settled among her heirs before Notary Public PANCHO G. UMALI of Makati City as per Doc. No.108, Page No.23, Book No.V, Series of 2005.
(PDI-Jan. 23, 30 & Feb. 6, 2006)

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Pocion Mercantile Inc. (#15 Gilmore Ave. QC) O.R. w/S.N. 94701-50 (unused #94715-50) was lost on Jan. 9, 2006. Unauthorized use of said O.R. will not be honored
(PDI-Jan.23,25&27,2006)

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722-1155

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Department of Finance
INSURANCE COMMISSION
1071 United Nations Avenue
Manila

Head Office:
P.O. Box 3589 Manila
FAX No. 522-14-34
Tel. Nos. 523-84-61 to 70
E-mail: oic@i-manila.com.ph

INVITATION TO BID

The Insurance Commission (IC) invites eligible bidders to submit bids for the purchase of the 40 Laptop Computer. Allotted budget is Ps 3,200,000.00.

A complete set of Bid Documents can be acquired upon submission of a written application and upon payment of non-refundable fee of **TWO THOUSAND PESOS (Ps 2,000.00)** from January 16-29, 2006. A pre-bid conference will be held on January 30, 2006 at 10:00 AM.

Bid proposal must be submitted in two (2) sealed envelopes and labeled as follows:

A. Eligibility Check Envelope containing:

1. Legal Documents;
2. Technical Documents;
3. Financial Documents; and
4. Other documents such as valid joint venture agreement, in case of a joint venture; and letter authorizing the BAC or its duly authorized representative to verify any or all of the documents submitted for eligibility check.

B. Technical and Financial Proposal Envelope

Eligibility check screening as well as the preliminary examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualifications of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to the Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Evaluation on Bids, Post qualifications and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of RA 1984 and its implementing rules and regulations and other applicable government rules and regulations.

Deadline of submission of sealed bids shall not be later than 12:00 noon on February 13, 2006 and bids shall be opened at 2:00 PM of the same date at the Function Room, Insurance Commission, 1071 United Nations Avenue.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Nancy V. Camaliga/Ariel S. Sim at Telephone Nos. 525-7521 and 404-1664 respectively.

IC assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate an indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

IC reserves the rights to reject any or all bids, waive any minor defects therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **PAMELA F. PITAS**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

Noted By:

(Sgd.) **EVANGELINE CRISOSTOMO-ESCOBILLO**
Insurance Commissioner

(PDI - January 16 & 23, 2006)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HAGONOY WATER DISTRICT
Poblacion, Hagonoy, Bulacan
Tel. No. (044) 7932524

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The HAGONOY WATER DISTRICT, through its Bids and Awards Commitee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder project.

Name of Project : HWD 3 Storey Commercial Building with Roofdeck
Brief Description : Commercial Spaces for 2 floors & office with escalator
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : Php 23,500,000.00
Contract Duration : 240 Days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with the value at least 50% of the ABC and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of bids. The BAC will conduct post qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, bid Security, Performance Security, Pre Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC activities	Schedule
1. Submission of Letters of Intent (LOI) and Application for Eligibility	Up to Jan. 30, 2006 not later than 5 p.m.
2. Submission of Eligibility Requirements	February 1, 2006
3. Results of Eligibility Check & shortlisting	February 3, 2006
4. Issuance of Bid Documents	February 6, 2006
5. Pre bid Conference	February 13, 2006
6. Receipt and Opening of Bids	February 17, 2006

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at the Hagonoy Water District Main Office at Hagonoy, Bulacan upon submission of LOI and upon payment of a non refundable amount of Php 1,000.00 to Hagonoy Water District Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the Notice of Eligibility from the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of non refundable amount of Php 10,000.00 to Hagonoy Water District Cashier. The bidders may submit their bids and transact business with the BAC Chairman, MR. ALBERTO S. LOPEZ.

The Hagonoy Water District assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

(Sgd.) ENGR. CELESTINO S. VENGCO
GENERAL MANAGER

(PDI – January 16 & 23, 2006)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Re-invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Construction Management (CM) Consultancy Services for the BSP Branch Building in Butuan

The Scope of Construction Management Work includes among others quantity surveying services, preparation of detailed estimates, value engineering, full construction management and supervision for the proposed BSP Branch Building in Butuan.

1. The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, through the BSP 2005 Building Construction Account intends to apply the sum of three million one hundred seventy thousand pesos (P3,170,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for INFRA-2005-02. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of the financial proposals.
2. The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential bidders to apply for eligibility and short listing for the construction management consultancy services. Interested consultants must submit their LOIs and accomplished Eligibility Documents on or before 30 January 2006 / 1:30 PM at the BAC Secretariat, Room 204, 2nd Floor, Five Storey Building, BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo Sts. Manila. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. Eligibility documents may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat on January 09 to 24 2006 for a non-refundable fee of P500.00, Room 204, 2nd Floor, Five Storey Building at the BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo Streets, Manila. Only those that are short listed will be entitled to submit bids.
3. The BAC shall draw up the short list of consultants from those who have submitted Letter of Intents and have been determined as eligible both in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184) and its implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A). The short list of prospective bidders shall consist of five (5) consultants.

   The firm's applicable experience (completed comparable and related consultancy services and know cases of prior performance) shall be used as criteria for short listing.
4. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only bids from short listed consultants will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in the Eligibility Documents. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 the contract will only be awarded to the Highest Rated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

   The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas shall evaluate bids using the **Quality-Cost Based Evaluation** procedure. The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Instructions to Bidders.
5. The minimum eligibility requirements are as follows:
   - 5.1 The consultant must have been in operation for the last fifteen (15) years (reckoned from the date of the first advertisement/posting of this invitation) engaging in the lawful practice of the type of consulting services called for in this invitation.
   - 5.2 The consultant must have rendered within the last ten (10) years (reckoned from the date of the first advertisement/posting of this invitation) Construction Management consultancy services for at least five (5) completed new construction projects of similar nature/magnitude/complexity as the proposed BSP projects and must be able to submit a certification of satisfactory performance for the client for at least three (3) of the required five (5) projects.
   - 5.3 The principal or Managing Officer must be a Registered Architect or Engineer with at least fifteen (15) years experience in actual construction work and construction management.
   - 5.4 The Project Manager for the projects must be a registered Architect or Civil Engineer with minimum fifteen (15) years experience in actual construction work five (5) years of which experience in construction management.
   - 5.5 The Resident Construction Management Team should at least be Registered Architects/Engineers each with a minimum ten (10) years combined design/construction management and construction experience where the Construction Management experience should at least be five (5) years. The minimum number required for the team should at least be three excluding the principal and project manager.
   - 5.6 In case of a joint venture, a valid joint venture agreement shall be required. The joint venture must have rendered construction management consultancy services for at least two (2) completed projects of similar magnitude as the proposed BSP project.
   - 5.7 A consultant with at least two (2) on-going and/or awarded BSP consultancy projects at the time of this invitation will not be allowed to participate in this consultancy service requirement.
   - 5.8 For those firms with previous or current Design Consultancy Services with the BSP, a certificate of satisfactory performance issued by the Bank must be submitted.
6. For inquiries, please call **BAC Secretariat - telephone no. 524-7011 local 3143.**
7. The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reserves the right to reject any and all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.
Chairman

(PDI - Jan. 8 & 23, 2006)

National Irrigation Administration
Region VI, Bonifacio Drive, Iloilo City

Contract Ref. No.
NIAR6-SPISP-GS-01-06

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA), Region VI, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers / manufacturers / distributors / contractors to apply for Eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : Supply and Delivery of Various IT Equipment and Software for SPISP CPMO
Location : NIA, Region VI, Iloilo City
Brief Description : (Actual breakdown of items to be bid are indicated in the Bid Form)

1. 8 – units Computer Notebook
2. 7 – units Printer
3. 7 – units 4 in 1 USB Flash Driver Portable Storage Device
4. 5 – units Desktop
5. 1 – unit Flatbed Scanner
6. 1 – unit Voice Recorder (Portable Multi Media Player)
7. 29 – units USB Mobile Disk (512 MB Memory Flash Drive)
8. Others (see list)

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : Php 1,354,100.00
Contract Duration : 60 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

BAC Activities	*Schedule*		
	Time	DATE	VENUE
1. Submission of Letters of Intent and Application for Eligibility and Issuance of Eligibility Forms		Jan. 23, 2006	NIA Reg. 6, Bonifacio Drive, Iloilo City
2. Deadline of Submission of Eligibility Requirements		Feb. 6, 2006	
3. Issuance of Bid Documents		Feb. 20, 2006	NIA Reg. 6, Bonifacio Drive, Iloilo City
4. Pre-Bid Conference	10:15 A.M.	Feb. 27, 2006	NIA Reg. 6, Conference Room, Iloilo City
5. Submission and Opening of Bids	10:15 A.M.	Mar. 13, 2006	– do –
6. Notice of Award		Mar. 29, 2006	

Cost of Eligibility Forms = Php 500.00 (non-refundable / non-transferable)

Bid Documents will be available only to eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00) to the National Irrigation Administration Region VI Cashier.

The National Irrigation Administration assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

The NIA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Approved
(Sgd.) ELISEO R. CARREON, CSEE
BAC Chairman

(PDI – January 23 & 30, 2006)

PAMPANGA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
GUAGUA, PAMPANGA

January 20, 2006

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF BIDDERS

PAMPANGA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (PELCO II) WITH OFFICE ADDRESS AT SAN ROQUE, GUAGUA, PAMPANGA IS INVITING ELIGIBLE BIDDERS FOR A GROUP INSURANCE OF ITS FOUR HUNDRED & FOUR PERMANENT EMPLOYEES.

You are therefore invited for the pre-qualification to bid on January 26, 2006 (Thursday), 09:00 A.M. at PELCO II Board Room San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga wherein there will be an open discussion in preparation for the bidding proper scheduled on February 2, 2006 (Thursday) at 10:00 A.M.

Please be informed that non-attendance on scheduled pre-qualification to bid is an automatic disqualification for those bidders who wants to join the bidding.

For more information, please see Ms. Ana Lea N. Narciso at PELCO II Office or dial number at (045) 900-0611, 900-2650.

(Sgd) ANA LEA N. NARCISO
PBAC Chairperson

(PDI-January 22 & 23, 2006)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
CITY OF ILOILO

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), Iloilo City invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid on the following project.

Name of Project: Rental of Heavy Equipment for excavation Dozing, leveling, compacting & soil covering
Project Location: Calajunan Dumpsite, Brgy. Calajunan Mandurriao, I.C.
Approved Budget for the Contract: P 6,918,192.00
Source of Fund: General Fund - 2006
Contract Duration: 214 days
Scope of Work Rental
Contractor's PCAB License

Name of Project: Garbage Collection & Transport Services
Project Location: Calajunan Dumpsite, Mandurriao, Iloilo City
Approved Budget for the Contract: P 36,954,060.00
Source of Fund: General Fund - 2006
Contract Duration: January 01, to December 31, 2006
Scope of Work: Garbage Collection
Contractor's PCAB License

The Schedule of Bidding Activities is as follows:

Period for the Submission of Letter of Intent and Eligibility Forms	Jan. 16 – Feb. 03, 2006
Period for the Issuance of Bid Documents	Feb. 15 – Feb. 20, 2006
Pre-Bid Conference at the City Budget Office Conference Room	February 24, 2006
Last Day of Submission of Bids in Sealed Envelopes (c/o BAC Secretariat)	March 07, 2006
Opening of Bids in Sealed Envelopes at the City Budget Office Conference Room	March 07, 2006

Complete sets of Eligibility Requirements may be obtained from the Office of the BAC Secretariat at the General Services Office, City Hall, Iloilo City. Duly accomplished Eligibility Forms shall be submitted in sealed envelope addressed to the BAC Chairman, c/o BAC Secretariat.

Eligible contractors may obtain the Bid Tender Documents at the Office of the BAC Secretariat, General Services Office, City Hall, Iloilo City upon payment of a non refundable fee of Two Thousand (P 2,000.00) Pesos on the above prescribed period.

Minimum Number of Equipments Required for Excavation, dozing, Leveling, Compacting & soil covering

Bulldozer	Two (2) Units
Backhoe Excavator	One (1) Unit

Minimum Number of Equipments Required for Garbage Collection

Dump Truck (Ave. Capacity of 8 cu. m.)	Four (4) Units
Compactor Truck (Ave. Capacity of 8 cu. m.)	Twenty (20) Units

Prospective Bidders shall signify their conformance to the Bidding Terms and Conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. The criteria to be used by BAC in the Eligibility Check of Prospective Bidders shall be on a non - discretionary "pass/fail"-basis

The provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations and other applicable rules and regulations shall govern all particulars relative to Eligibility, Bid Bond, Performance bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract

The BAC reserves the right to accept or reject all Bids or part thereof, to waive formality therein or to accept such bids or to award any work that is considered most advantageous to the Local Government Unit

(Sgd) ATTY. EDGARDO GIL
Chairman, BAC

(PDI--Jan. 16 & 23, 2006)

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  - to handle field negotiations for collection of accounts

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10th Floor, One San Miguel Avenue Bldg., San Miguel Ave. cor. Shaw Blvd.,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

COOP TO OPERATE TINDAHAN NATIN

Task Force Buhayin ang Maynila Chairman Kim Atienza (with hat) hands to Teresa C. Lumactud (in dark eyeglasses), chairwoman of Baseco compound in Tondo, the Certificate to Operate a Tindahan Natin outlet on behalf of the Bagong Lupa Multi Purpose Cooperative. The Tindahan Natin, one of the component programs of the "Serbisyo Muna!", will provide low-income families with access to low-priced but good quality rice and noodles. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the local government units through their respective City/Municipal Social Welfare and Development Offices will determine the areas and operators of the Tindahan Natin which the National Food Authority will accredit and supply with well-milled rice to be sold at P18 per kg. Also in photo are (from right) senior managing head of corporate communication and services department of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) Dodie King, NFA Public Affairs director Rex C. Estoperez, DSWD National Capital Region regional director Honorita Bayudan and NFA Central District Office manager Myrna Domingo.

OBITUARIES

MESSAGE OF THANKS
We, the family of the late

Jesus Masilang Soriano, Sr.

former BIR-RDO Nueva Ecija

on the occasion of his 40th day who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on 15 December 2005, wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

JUN & SUZETTE ZALAMEA, Ina, Jug & Kaye-Alexa, Ica, Jed, Isa
AUGGIE & BEBOT REYNOSO, Celine & Jason
MARK & KAREN TALUSAN, Anton, Joseph, Michael & Jacob

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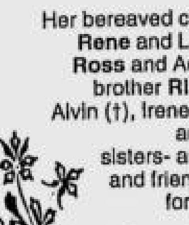
REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

• DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS
• DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever." **Psalms 23:6**



Elena Romero Camantigue

devoted wife and loving mother

Peacefully joined our Creator
on January 10, 2006 at the age of 87.

Her bereaved children **Merci**, **Carrie** and Bernie Salvador, **Rene** and Liza Camantigue, **Luz** and Mon Antonio, **Ross** and Adel Camantigue; sister **Loretta** Romero, brother **Ricardo** Romero; grandchildren Jennie, Alvin (†), Irene, Francis, Bea, Marielle, Margaux, Michael and Kristine; nieces, nephews, sisters- and brothers-in-law and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her ashes will be flown to Ontario, Canada to be reunited with her beloved husband, **Francisco**.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave us His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have Everlasting life." — John 3:16

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course,
I have kept the faith..." (2 Timothy 4:7)

Our brave little soldier,

EMILIO LUIS PANLASIGUI ABAYA
"Mio"

joined our Father in heaven
18 July 2000 - 21 January 2006

His remains lie in state in Big Horseshoe Drive, Horseshoe Village, Q. C.

His mother **ANGELA**, kuya **ENZO**, grandparents General **NARCISO** and **Mrs. SUSAN ABAYA**; aunts and uncles **NINA**, **ARMAND**, **MARK**, and **MONICA**; great grandparents **ISIDORO** and **NIEVES** (†) **PANLASIGUI**, **ROMUALDO** (†) and **NATIVIDAD** (†) **ABAYA**; grand aunts Dra. **CIONY ABAYA-MORIDO**, **DIDI MANARANG**, **FENIAN MORAN**; grand uncles **ODY ABAYA**, **TONY MORAN**, **VIC MANARANG** and Dr. **BENNY MORIDO**; aunts and uncles **ARTHUR**, **MARIKA**, **JA**, **MARTIN**, **LOUIE**, **ATE LUCY** and **ATE RUTH**, appreciate your prayers.

In lieu of flowers and mass cards, our family would greatly appreciate donations to the AFP Medical Center Children's Ward for Cancer patients.

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Gov't expects billions in savings

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT EXPECTS TO GENERATE billions of pesos in savings from debt servicing this year, as the peso strengthens against the US dollar, while interest rates are seen to decline further.

In a sensitivity analysis, the Department of Finance said the national government could save P4.369 billion this year for every unit of peso appreciation, and another P5.137 billion for every percentage-point decline in interest rates.

Under the government's 2006 fiscal program, it is set to pay P381.7 billion worth of maturing foreign and domestic debts.

The 2006 fiscal program assumed that the average exchange rate would settle at P56:$1, and that the benchmark 91-day Treasury bill rate would hit 8 percent.

Strong inflow of remittances from abroad—money mostly sent by overseas Filipino workers to relatives in the country—has propped up the peso against the dollar.

The peso is hovering at the P52:$1 level since the beginning of the year, On Friday, it closed at P52.96:$1. The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said that there is even a possibility that the peso would hit the 51 to the dollar level.

T-bill rates have also been sliding due to the high level of market liquidity, which increases demand for government securities, and the reduction in the supply of T-bills and bonds because of the government's dwindling budget deficit.

The Bureau of the Treasury earlier announced that the government's domestic borrowing program for the first quarter of this year was set at P75 billion, or 47 percent lower than the P142 billion borrowed during the same period of last year.

T-bill rates dropped across all maturities last week, with the 91-day tenor breaching the 5-percent mark and falling to 4.863 percent, the lowest since August 2002.

The government had set a budget deficit ceiling of P180 billion last year, but the Treasury said the actual deficit figure could be lower than P160 billion.

The Department of Finance, head agency of the Treasury, will announce the official 2005 budget deficit figure today.

Lack of national pride challenged by youth culture

THERE IS AN APPARENT PERCEPTION that Filipinos prefer everything imported. Not surprising, considering that the country was under foreign rule for more than 400 years. During this long period, colonial mentality, or the feeling of inferiority to foreigners, was born. However, recent cultural developments say otherwise, with the surprising resurgence of nationalism in the youth sector.

This new wave of nationalism among the youth is seemingly prevalent wherever you look. In music, fashion, movies, and gaming, somehow Pinoy seems to be "in" again. It appears that nothing escapes Pinoy pride, not even internet message boards. A teenager on a popular Pinoy message board proudly posts, *"S'yempre naman! Kahit maputi na ang buhok ko, Pilipino pa rin ako!"*

This pride is not unjustified. Filipinos everywhere are blazing trails through fields usually dominated by foreign powers. Trails bright enough to catch the attention of the demographic that is the hardest to win over. The youth.

Take gaming for instance. Traversing a field dominated by technologically advanced countries, Anino Entertainment produced Anito: A Land Enraged, a game that is not only Pinoy made, but is proudly Pinoy themed. Gamers were all excited with Anito, and supportive of the fledgling industry. The prevailing sentiment was, "Support the Philippine Gaming Industry, buy the original game, *'wag pirated!*"

The gaming industry is not the only field being revolutionized by nationalism. The Philippine music scene, which has, for the past few years, been inundated with foreign acts is once more brimming with local talent. Songs that speak of Philippine pride, like Bamboo's Noypi, became the anthem of the identity seeking youth.

Even Philippine cinema is experiencing a renaissance. The rise of independent filmmaking has sparked renewed interest in local movies, with the youth sector trooping to cinema houses to watch, and take pride in these local productions.

Sadly, this strong resurgence of nationalism seems to be limited to the youth. Among other groups, a preference for foreign goods and products is still prevalent. A lot of the box office hits are still the foreign movies. In upscale cinema houses, people patiently join the queue despite the long lines, while not a few theaters showing local movies remain half-full.

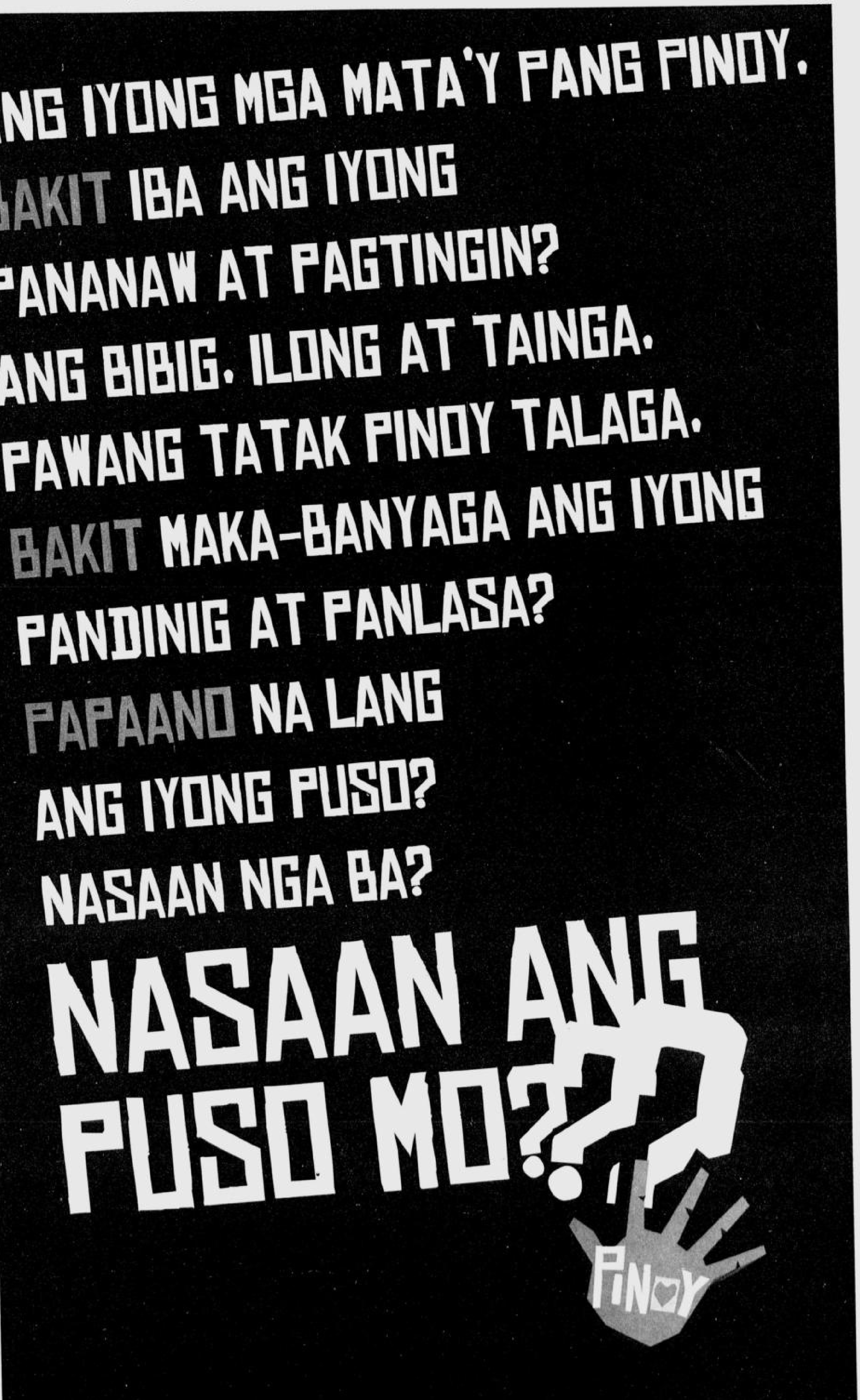
Many shoppers prefer big-name foreign branded clothes, flooding malls during sales to get a chance to purchase their dream imported brand clothes while the prices are down. Puzzling really, since despite the lowered prices, most are still more expensive than regular priced items from quality local brands.

PX Goods stores still make a killing, selling everything from canned goods to toilet paper. The thought that local products could be better doesn't usually occur to the shoppers.

This preference can't easily be justified with sound reasoning. But one explanation makes sense: Colonial mentality. An age-old way of thinking instilled in Filipinos since the Spanish ages, colonial mentality regards foreign ways as better and should be mimicked. But what's really better for Filipinos? Imported goods or products made with them specifically in mind?

Perhaps the Filipino youth know something older people don't. Something that compels them to champion what they believe, and take pride in. Something about how nationalism can make an economy grow. And something about how colonial mentality can kill it.

It's never too late for an old dog to learn r tricks. And maybe this time, the old dogs should learn from the young.



ANG IYONG MGA MATA'Y PANG PINOY.
BAKIT IBA ANG IYONG
PANANAW AT PAGTINGIN?
ANG BIBIG. ILONG AT TAINGA.
PAWANG TATAK PINOY TALAGA.
BAKIT MAKA-BANYAGA ANG IYONG
PANDINIG AT PANLASA?
PAPAANO NA LANG
ANG IYONG PUSO?
NASAAN NGA BA?

NASAAN ANG PUSO MO??

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

BUSINESS*Monday*

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

Moving further up

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

NINA Aguas in her Spanish-style home

HER FACE ALWAYS BREAKS into a wide smile. Her personality is so "un-Citibank." Stiff was how the bank was 10 years ago when it was dominated by males in grey and navy blue suits.

But Citibank N.A.'s first female country manager for Global Consumer Bank Nina D. Aguas brought more than just her smile and woman power to the bank.

She fought and won battles for the country that in the end showed, despite her successes, that her heart is in the right place.

BusinessMonday visited her in her sprawling Spanish-style home in the southern part of Manila. As soon as she sees us, she breaks into a wide smile and opens her arms wide in welcome.

Dressed in jeans, white blouse and big white pearl necklace and earrings, she gives a personal tour of her villa-like abode, regaling us with little stories about the antique furnishings and collections from all over the world that decorate the place.

The house looks small and unassuming from the street, but it stands on 2,500 square meters of rolling terrain.

The house can host over five different parties without one group seeing or disturbing the other.

She says she is sad about leaving her home. She knows she will not enjoy this much space when she moves to an apartment in New York but she vows to visit the Philippines once every quarter.

Nina has just accepted a Citibank job in the United States as head of Corporate Center Business Compliance, a global position. She will be the first to occupy the post—an area that is the focus of Citibank chair Sanford Weill. Her job is to ensure that all aspects of the bank's operations are in compliance with government and bank rules.

Critics have commented that she is being kicked upstairs but it's just talk. Nina has headed the Philippine operations for almost six years—almost twice the usual three years

MOVING/ B2-2

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- Biggest gathering ever of Migrant Families in the CALABARZON.

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Beyond cooperation

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

WHEN A GROUP OF SOLDIERS FOUND themselves locked away in a German prison camp during World War II, they easily could have waited out the end of the war there. Or, they might have made a few small attempts to free one or two people.

At one such camp, however, the goals were much bigger. These prisoners organized themselves around the collective goal of freeing 250 soldiers in one night. Their story became the basis for the 1963 movie, "The Great Escape."

Imagine the teamwork required to pull off such an ambitious goal. Groups of prisoners had to engineer and dig tunnels, build supports from wooden slats, dispose of dirt, create bellows to pump air into the tunnels, and light the tunnels.

According to one list, the supplies included 4,000 bed slats, 1,370 battens, 1,699 blankets, 52 long tables, 1,219 knives, 30 shovels, 600 feet of rope and 1,000 feet of electric wire.

In addition to finding materials for the tunnels, each escapee would need civilian clothes, German papers, identity cards, maps, homemade compasses and emergency rations.

Everyone had a job, from tailors to pickpockets to forgers. There were even teams that specialized in distracting the German soldiers.

"It demanded the concentrated devotion and vigilance of more than 600 men—every single one of them, every minute, every hour, every day and every night for more than one year," John Sturges, who directed the movie account, once said. "Never has the human capacity been stretched to such incredible lengths or shown such determination and such courage."

To pull off such an elaborate mission, the soldiers moved beyond cooperation and into collaboration. You see, there's a difference between cooperation and collaboration.

Cooperation is working together agreeably. Everybody sits down, and they're agreeable. Collaboration is working together aggressively; and there's a world of difference between those two.

There are four changes needed to become a collaborative type of a player:

1. Perception. You need to see teammates differently; you need to see them as collaborators, not as competitors.

2. Attitude. As a team player, you need to be supportive, not suspicious, of teammates, because if you trust others, you'll treat them differently—you'll treat them better.

3. Focus. A collaborative type of team player concentrates on the team, not himself or herself. Cavett Roberts said it right: "True progress in any field is a relay race and not a single event," so the focus is different.

4. Results. You begin to create victories through multiplication.

One is too small of a number to produce greatness. In fact, nothing can be accomplished in a great way without help. You have to learn to collaborate. You have to learn to come together.

When you're developing a team that collaborates, it begins to be aggressive, not just agreeable. And it begins to accomplish a vision that mere cooperation never would allow.

(For information on John Maxwell's in-house or public leadership or teamwork workshops, please email us at maxwell@inspire.ph or call 813-2732/03 and ask for Gina. Text MAXWELL ON to 4632 (Smart) to get daily SMS leadership insights from John Maxwell. God bless!)

NINA (second from right) with some of the members of her senior management team. (From left) Ailene Litonjua, Cecille Fonacier and Benjie Oliva.

Moving further...

From page B2-1

that top officials stay in a post.

In her new job as a Filipino expatriate, Nina has to create a template to outline what she has to do.

"It's a new function that is not yet defined. I have to develop the mandate and the charter for it," she says.

After a tour of the house which took about half an hour, we sit for breakfast of *longganisa* and corned beef. She breaks into a hearty laugh that reminds you of your carefree school days, when cares were best left to adults.

Not that Nina has no cares. Her position in Citibank carries responsibilities enough for 10 lifetimes.

But her secret lies in two words, "Enjoy life."

"Personally, I like to have fun. That is something that is never missing with me. Even when deadlines are tight and the pressure is on, I take time out to laugh and enjoy the little things in life," she said in a previous interview with the INQUIRER.

And Nina knows how to make herself laugh even in the most stressful situations.

One time, the country managers were asked to make reports to Citibank's top honchos. As always, she looked and felt relaxed. A tense colleague asked why she was so relaxed.

Nina laughingly whispered, "I just think that like you and me, all of them go to the bathroom too!"

The smile, the outfits and the jewelry of this effervescent lady will be missed in the halls of Citibank at Eastwood City in Libis.

Nina changed many things in Citibank and achieved great strides in representing the Philippine operations in the American conglomerate does not have the country on its priority list.

"One of the best complements I received when I said I was leaving was—Who's going to speak for the Philippines now?" she says.

Nina's post as first female head of Citibank in the Philippines was not all pomp and pageantry.

When she accepted the top post in Citibank in Manila (over Latin American), she did so with the intent to help the Philippines, in particular, help create more jobs.

This she believed could be achieved by convincing the bank to invest more in the Philippines.

But it was not an easy task to do in a company, which had its eyes on Russia, China and India.

Her efforts were made harder by the fact that Citigroup had been rethinking some of its foreign acquisitions and was not in a spending mode. This did not deter the feisty Nina.

For four years, "I talked to whomever will listen" about Citibank acquiring a local savings bank in the Philippines.

The law limits the branch network of foreign banks to only nine. However, they can own savings banks.

"How can you compete against local banks which have 600 branches?" Nina points out.

So for years, she lobbied for the purchase of a savings bank—a strategy adopted by other foreign banks to expand their market.

By some stroke of luck, she was finally given the nod to buy one. Life then became more frenzied than ever. "It was a monumental effort," she says to describe the move to acquire Insular Savings Bank.

There were times she regretted her move. But she plodded on.

It took almost a year for the acquisition to be finalized, creating Citbank Savings. The experience more than anything showed how capable Filipinos are, Nina says.

When everything was signed, Nina says: "It was a moment to experience. Some guys from New York said if they could only bottle the energy and send it to other countries ... "

While still pushing for the acquisition of a savings bank, Nina also proposed that Citibank go after the remittance business. "Nobody wanted to believe it," she says.

But Nina showed the numbers—50 percent of the remittances worldwide go to the Philippines, half of these come from the United States. And 60 percent of the remittances that come from the US come from California.

Citibank first opened a remittance center in San Francisco and so far this is proving to be quite a good business for the bank.

On top of these, she was able to push for the opening of a call center—Crescent Services—for Citibank in Manila. Crescent was set up in 2004 to provide business process outsourcing, call center and IT-related services to various Citibank entities around the globe.

When the acquisition of Insular Savings was nearing its final stages, Nina got an offer for the global position. She told the bosses she could not think of it because there were still loose ends to be tied.

That was September 2005. Come the next three months, she was being hounded for a decision.

As in all things in her life, Nina, who hears daily mass, prayed over the decision and consulted her family, especially her husband, Mario, a former partner at SGV & Co. He told her it was only for three years. The five children were wary at first but later agreed to the change.

Nina and Mar's boudoir is in the midst of being packed. When we interviewed her, the packers were around and some of the furniture had tags—to mark those that will be brought to New York.

She is excited but not overly concerned about her new post.

Nina is not one to plan her life nor worry about what lies ahead. For somebody who started her career late—she joined Citibank when she was in her late 20s, some 24 years ago.

She put her husband's career and her family ahead of her own. Yet she still succeeded in her career and continues to rise higher.

Manage your personal risks

By Reynaldo A. de Dios
Contributor

THE FIRST step in managing personal risks is to undertake a detailed inventory of one's assets and liabilities.

WITH THE ADVENT OF A NEW YEAR, it will be a wise move for the individual with responsibilities to utilize the concepts of personal risk management on the subject of one's accumulated assets and contingent liabilities.

This should be done on an annual basis as an unexpected serious illness or sudden death will prove prejudicial to the best interests of the family and loved ones.

The first step in managing personal risks is to undertake a detailed inventory of one's assets and liabilities through which one can ascertain with reasonable accuracy the values of risk.

What are the assets that an individual gives priority attention to protect or conserve. Usually, it's his residential home, its contents, his car and investments in real estate, businesses and in shares of listed companies in the stock exchange. The house, its contents and other real estate properties may be insured against the risk of fire and natural perils and this technique is known as risk financing which transfers risk to commercial insurers.

Driving a car is also an exposure to risks which also can be assumed by an insurer. However, it is not possible to ensure the safety or liquidity of investments as it depends on a multitude of factors beyond one's control.

There's a saying that good health is better than wealth and this can only be achieved by controlling one's life style and following a regime of moderation in all types of activities. This reflects the application of risk control and avoidance although if one is affected by a sudden dreaded disease then the costs of hospitalization and medical treatment would be a great financial burden.

To mitigate this risk, one should consider purchasing medical insurance from a reputable HMO plus a special insurance policy to cover against medical expenses in the event a dread disease like cancer should unexpectedly crop up.

The risks involved in sudden death can be cushioned by a well-designed life insurance program in consultation with a career life insurance agent to ensure adequacy of the sum insured, the careful selection of the beneficiaries and whether the designation is revocable or irrevocable, the latter having a tax-free benefit but depriving the insured the right to change the beneficiaries.

Sudden death is a risk that will impact on the estate of an individual especially if there is no will in place. Thus the preparation of an estate plan is a prudent and often overlooked step by the individual. In this case, one should seek professional assistance to develop an estate plan that will meet his objectives.

Living too long is also a risk so one must prepare a build up of funds that will cover the high costs of hospitalization, medicines, doctors' fees, nursing and caregivers' services in one's old age.

Finally, an individual should be kind and charitable to his less fortunate fellowmen while corporations should include Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in their mission statement. The rewards are of incalculable value and are a fitting end to good personal risk management.

(The author is a Risk & Insurance Management Consultant)

Microtel to build in Bora

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

AMERICA'S LEADING ECONOMY-budget hotel chain, Microtel, is building its first resort-styled branch in the Philippines beach capital of the Philippines–Boracay Island. Microtel is planning to open the 60-room Microtel Inn & Suites Boracay by October this year which will have a full-service restaurant and swimming pool, according to Jose Mari del Rosario, CEO-president of Microtel Inn & Suites (Pilipinas) Inc.

Microtel Boracay is a novelty for the Atlanta-based hotel chain that specializes in affordable, well-maintained lodging facilities in North America and several countries including the Philippines.

Del Rosario says he was able to convince Microtel to agree to a few changes in the design of Microtel Boracay to blend in its resort setting because of the massive potential of the beach paradise that has attracted some of the world leading hotel operators such as the Shangri-La group ($75 million).

"We feel that Boracay will continue to be the prime tourist attraction of the Philippines with vistors pouring not only in the summer months but all year round," says del Rosario in an interview. "We think there are still not enough rooms or enough flights to accommodate all the tourists wanting to go to Boracay."

Although the costs of building a room in an island resort was more expensive than the standard cost of Microtel inns in Baguio, Eagle Ridge (Cavite), Hacienda Luisita (Tarlac), and Sto. Tomas (Batangas), del Rosario says that this was all worth it considering the projected returns from the project.

Except for the pool and restaurant, Microtel Boracay will offer the same value proposition as the other Microtel Inns—clean rooms at value rates—that have made it a hit among traveling businessmen. Del Rosario says Microtel boasts of having quiet and fresh smelling rooms with a bed that meets the specification of the American Chiropractic Association.

"Our clients rave about how are rooms smell so good and how our bed feels so comfortable," del Rosario says. But Jose Marco Hernandez del Pilar, corporate secretary of Microtel Boracay, says Microtel Boracay would target a different clientele, mostly families and couples on vacation. "Our property will stand out not only because of the quality and reliability of our rooms and service but also because of our location which is very private," said del Pilar. Del Pilar is a member of the Hernandez-del Pilar group which has a 43 percent stake in Diniwid Beach Hotel Corp. which owns the Microtel Boracay franchise. The other investors in the franchise are the Phinma group (43 percent) which owns the Microtel franchise in the country and former Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho (14 percent) whose family owned the land in Diniwid Beach. The Hernandez-Del Pilar group and Phinma are also partners in Microtel's most popular branch located at the Upper Session Road in Baguio City. Del Rosario says the Boracay hotel, Microtel's first outside Luzon, was in keeping with the government's drive to boost tourism facilities in the country to attract more tourist revenues to boost the economy.

Computerization alone is not the solution

MAPping THE FUTURE

Manuel A. Alcuaz Jr.

I OFTEN GET TOLD THAT WE IN THE IT community should do something about the computerization of the election system. There are even those who suspect a grand conspiracy, saying that the cancellation of the Mega Pacific Automation contract was done to facilitate election fraud in a manual system.

But we who petitioned the Supreme Court to stop the Mega Pacific Election Automation Contract all agree that computerization alone would not prevent election fraud.

Most of us in the IT industry believe that computerization will only help make the election count faster and more honest, but this must be done together with necessary people and process changes.

If the computerized counting will be done by the same dishonest people, fraud will still happen.

In the 2004 elections, wholesale dagdag-bawas was said to have happened in Muslim Mindanao through the introduction of fraudulent precinct election returns or last minute massive changes in the municipal and/or provincial certificates of canvass.

To stop fraud, computerization is not the solution. There should be a process of post election audit where election fraud is investigated and prosecuted. This should not be done as part of an election protest.

Whether the winner would be different is not the issue. Election cheating is a criminal offense against our nation and our people and should be prosecuted as such. Then and only then will we get rid of election fraud.

Retail cheating by changing the numbers at the precinct level is difficult unless there are no opposition observers. In recent years, wholesale cheating was done by changing the precinct totals, by substituting returns and/or changing the municipal or provincial certificates of canvass.

How could cheating be done in an automated election with Optimal Mark Reading Machines?

At the municipal level, it could be done by creating fake voting ballots and then substituting them for the real ballots. When the machine reads the fake ballots, it will generate fake election results. Admittedly, this will be more tedious than just changing results of the returns, or substituting the real returns with fake ones. But it can still be done.

Testing the machines before and after the count will not detect the fraud.

The other way to cheat in an automated election is by making changes in the tabulation software. This is why we preferred a semi-manual system where the counting machines would be stand-alone units.

With stand-alone machines, it would be easier to detect the loading of program changes. In a networked system, it would be nearly impossible for outsiders like the opposition parties to detect such software changes.

Again, testing the machines before and after the election would be useless, because the changes could be downloaded through the network just before the counting. At the end of counting, the honest program could be reloaded.

To make sure that this does not happen, we must depend on honest people from the vendor, contractors, and Comelec.

Since the manipulation could be happening electronically, having a dozen observers sitting around is useless.

Changing structure

While we are on the topic of organization change, let us ask, "Will changing management structure or government structure result in magical organization improvement?" The answer again is a resounding NO.

To have organization improvement, we must also institute changes in other dimensions such as processes, goals, technology, people, culture and values.

Business or national development, progress, equitable distribution of resources, and honesty are less dependent on organization structure or form of government (presidential or parliamentary) than on people, culture and values.

Dishonesty in business and corruption in government is not eradicated by a mere change in organization structure.

People must have the will to get rid of it, and processes to detect and punish dishonesty and corruption must be implemented.

To summarize, organization improvement is not possible through changes in only one organization dimension. One must institute changes along multiple dimensions. It will be difficult, but not impossible to do.

(The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is President of Systems Sciences Consult, Inc. Feedback at map@globenet.com.ph)

Stock restrictions

Corporate Securities Info

Raul J. Palabrica

IT MUST BE VERY frustrating for a stockholder who is going through some financial problems to be unable to sell his shares to the highest bidder because of corporate restrictions.

The general rule is, shares in a corporation are personal property and therefore they can be sold, transferred or disposed of in any manner its owner wants.

So it came as a big surprise to an owner of shares of stock in a fairly profitable company who wanted out to learn that its internal rules require her to sell her holdings only to the employee-stockholders.

For obvious reasons, the employees who expressed interest in acquiring her shares wanted to buy them at a low price.

There were non-employees who felt the company had good earning potentials so they offered to buy her stocks for a much higher price.

But no amount of pleas for understanding could make the employee-stockholders increase their price or make her financial situation a justification for the temporary lifting of the restriction.

Right of refusal

It is not uncommon for corporations to put clauses in their articles of incorporation that limit the ability of their stockholders to freely transfer their shareholdings.

Laboring under the theory that incorporators have the right to maintain the original mix of their group, some companies insist on a "right of first refusal" provision in their organic documents.

This means that any shareholder who plans to unload his shares is obliged to offer them first to whoever may be interested within the group before he sells them to outsiders.

To avoid haggling on the selling price, the organizers of the corporation usually agree on a formula on the valuation of shares ahead of time. If no one wants or does not have the money to buy the shares being sold, the seller is free to look elsewhere for interested buyers.

Business matter

The restriction in the disposition of shares that has gained judicial recognition is that which prevents the sale of stocks of a company to people or entities with competing business interests, more popularly known in the legal circles as the "Gokongwei" doctrine.

The reasonableness of constraints imposed on the sale, assignment or conveyance of stocks has, on a number of occasions, been raised by affected shareholders with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Since this issue relates to the exercise of a business judgment or the appreciation of the contractual relationship among stockholders, the SEC has refrained from rendering an opinion on the propriety or soundness of those limitations.

Instead, the SEC invites the attention of the stockholders concerned to Sec. 6 of the Corporation Code which states that "shares of stocks ... may have such rights, privileges or restrictions as may be stated in the articles of incorporation."

Contract

The articles of incorporation constitute the contract between the corporation and the people who have agreed to join or be part of it.

No person can be compelled against his will to sign a document whose contents he disagrees with. When forced or intimidated into doing so, the coerced signatory can impugn the validity of his signature when the compulsive element has disappeared.

Thus, when a stockholder voluntarily affixes his signature in corporate documents that limit his ability to sell or dispose of his shares, he is deemed to have accepted that condition and therefore expected to comply with it.

Recognizing that some stockholders may not take interest in reading the articles of incorporation before parting with their money or are too trusting in corporate solicitations, the SEC has, as a matter of policy, required that restrictions on transfer of shares must be printed on the stock certificates themselves.

This information puts the stockholder on notice about the curbs that the corporation has imposed on his ability to transact on his stockholdings.

When that restriction later turns out to be burdensome for him, he cannot complain that it is onerous or unfair.

(For comments or questions concerning this article, you may write to <rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph>.)

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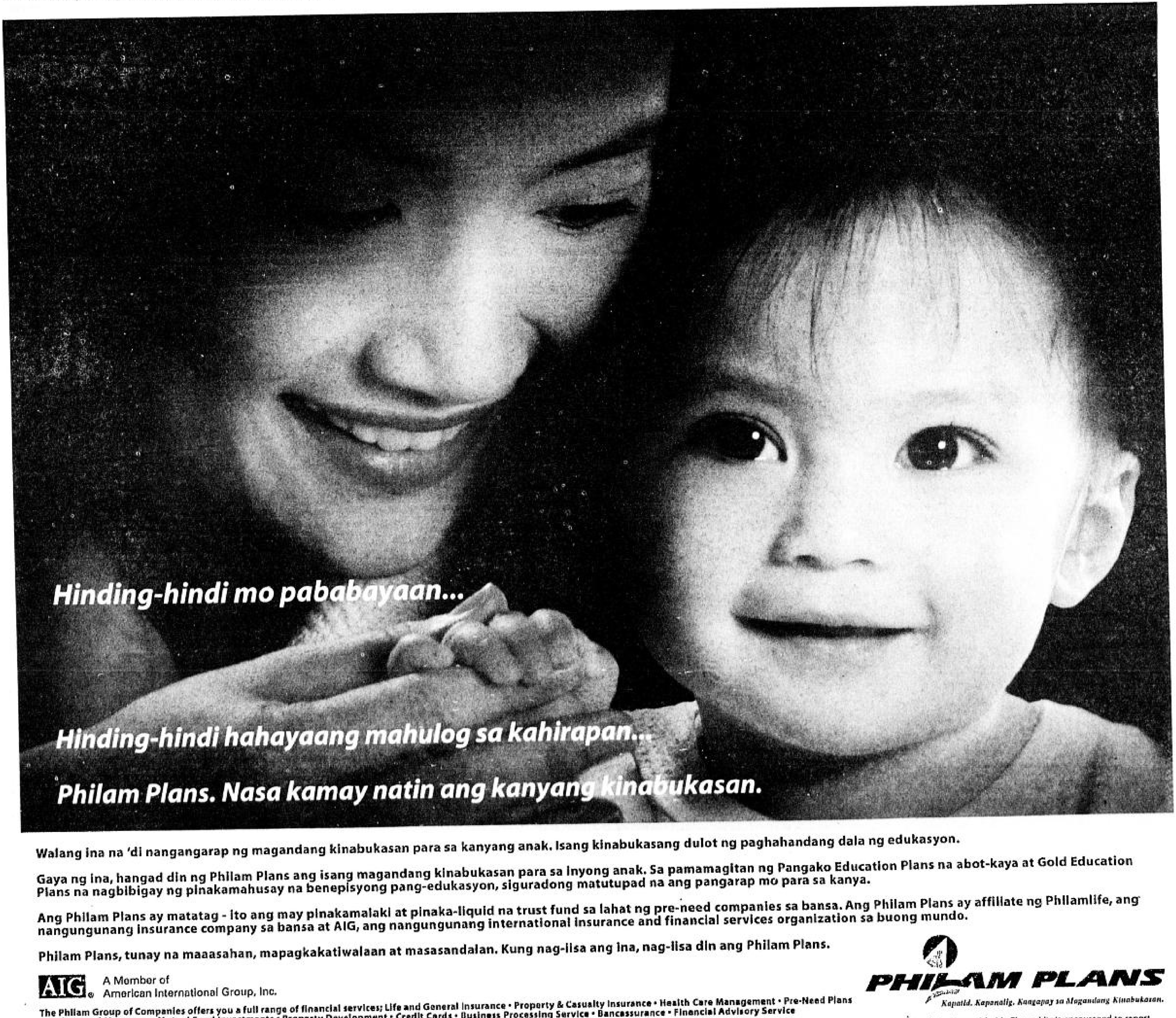

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Plug N' Play Your Own Contact Center

Information Overload is an affliction most common in any startup, leading to paralysis by analysis and followed by shutdown swifter than you can imagine. In the booming contact center industry, for example, new players have to consider everything from site location, technology platforms, support infrastructure, and agent training. Good luck wading through this mess: the staggering mountains of new literature on every operational aspect, the countless considerations you have to make at every turn. New data multiplies everyday and the information becomes overwhelming.

No, information is hardly the problem. What you as a new operator need, is simple: competence. The information is out there for sure, but who knows what to make of it?

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PLDT OnCall takes care of nearly everything else including infrastructure support with the most reliable platforms and solutions thanks to its partnership with Avaya, the world leader in contact center solutions. All the worrisome details including equipment maintenance, software upgrades, and agent training are all handled for you. This allows you to focus on your core competency - your customers.

You can think of it in simple techie analogies, it's Plug N' Play. The real golden component is your proprietary concept or business plan; you can leave all the other worrisome stuff in PLDT OnCall's competent hands. You can work on what you do best- your Big Idea.

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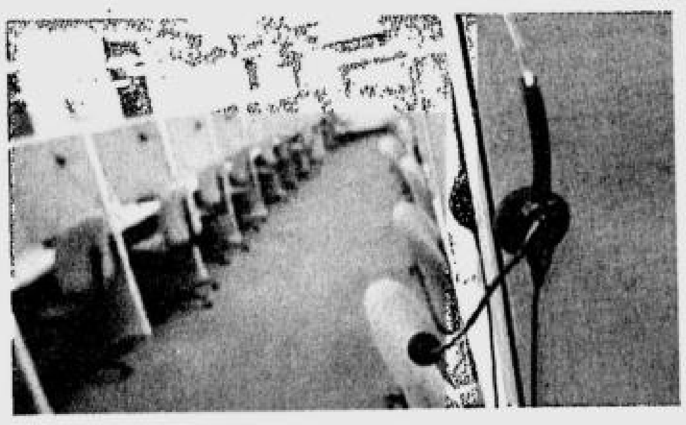
Call Centers: What You Should Know



There are basically two types of call centers (also more properly known as "contact" centers). A "Premised-based" contact center is one that you build and maintain on your own, while a "Network-based" or "Hosted" contact center as the name suggests, is one which is operated for you on a subcontracted basis for one or more key functions. By far it is the most cost-efficient option for entrepreneurs eager to make a first break in this hot industry.

PLDT OnCall gives you the most expert hosted contact center solutions, reducing your cost and worries the whole way through. Here are just some ways you can make the hosted option work for you:

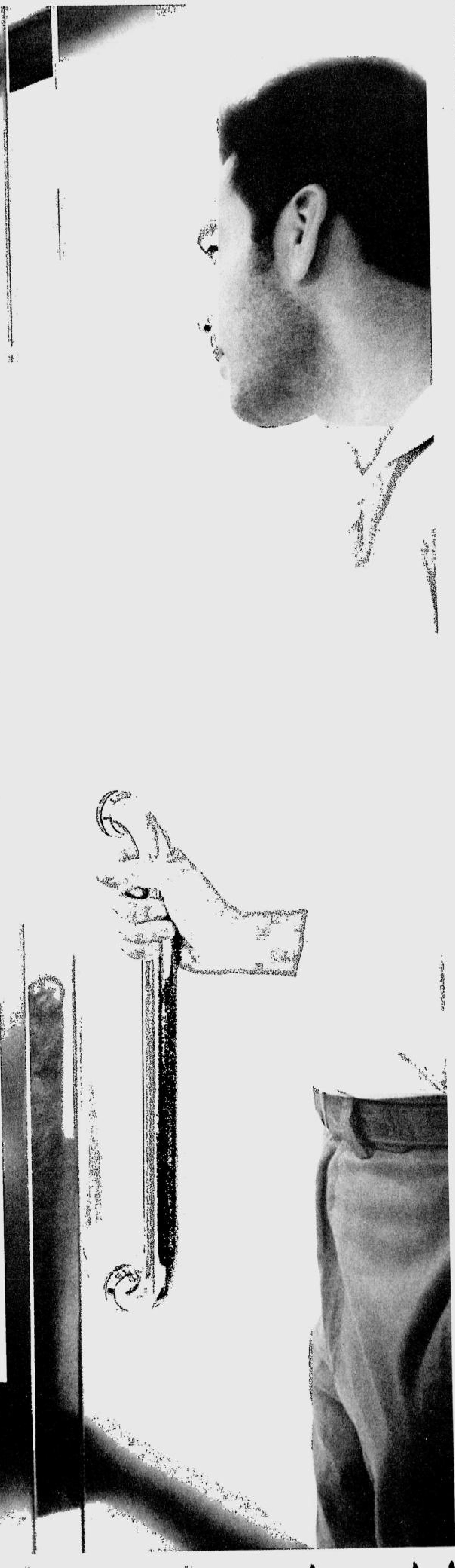
- Premised-based contact centers can have immense costs including hardware, software licenses, installation and engineering services, take it from us, the list can get long. Hosted contact centers just charge you a low fixed rate per agent or seat that you operate.

- Premised-based contact centers need to develop and maintain all kinds of operational expertise which means pricey staff. These HR costs are constantly rising, but are actually lower with Hosted contact centers that have a ready pool of experts and resources at your disposal.

- A Hosted contact center's total cost of ownership is lower because you have no maintenance and future technology upgrade bills to worry about; upgrades are handled for you. The same cannot be said for Premised-based contact centers, they incur huge bills every time they need to "refresh".

- Similarly, every time a Premised-based contact center "scales upwards" because of growing business, this also incurs a huge cost. With a Hosted contact center, you have tremendous flexibility in scaling in either direction, up or down as it suits you.

- Disaster recovery! Think of your worst-case scenario and it usually involves a system crash of some sort. Premised-based contact centers have to go the long route and set up multiple back-up sites and this costs big too. Your PLDT OnCall hosted contact center's network based solution inherently supports your business' seamless operations with no hiccups. Can there be any network larger and more solid than PLDT?



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Fil Delacruz's kenotic, kinetic art

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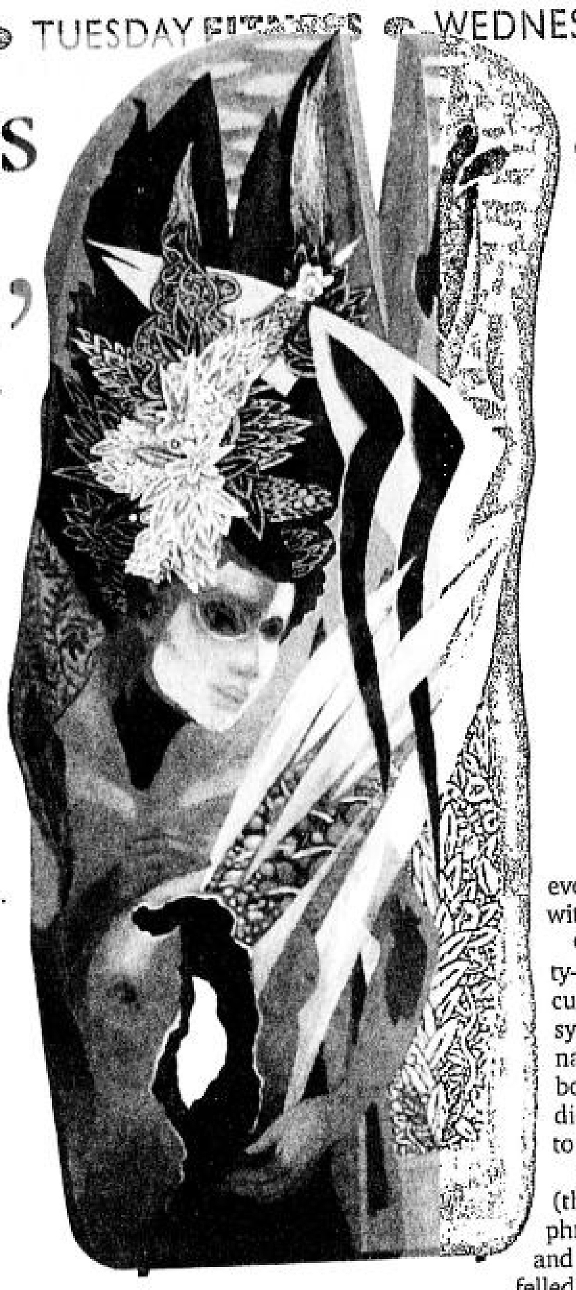


"NADAMA"

FIL DELACRUZ IS RETURNING to painting in grand style. But it's not really as if he had abandoned painting in the past.

More renowned for his mezzotint, lithography and overall printmaking prowess, Delacruz is not a painter-dabbler. Like the best visual artists, he works in several mediums almost at the same time.

And if there's a sign of greatness in him this early, his works, no matter the medium or genre, have acquired a thematic and artistic coherence. His artistic evolution has nothing been less than breathtaking. It could be said, in fact, that Delacruz now could lay claim to a fully developed iconography of his own.

The coherence is evident in his show, "Samba," which opens tomorrow night at The Crucible Gallery in SM Megamall. The oil-on-wood works thematically take off from his explorations of dualism, nature, and the matriarchal spirit that appears as a common denominator among indigenous Filipino cultures from such shows as "Dilim and Liwanag" (lithographs) and "Bulawan" (paintings). Artistically, the new show builds on Delacruz's strengths in draftsmanship, composition and color bravura.

Of course, there's something new in the show. As "canvas," Delacruz uses wood, especially *langka* (jackfruit) wood, which he paints as well as carves and chisels (which means he also puts to use his expert skill as a sculptor in the new works). The wood mostly comes from felled trees, and there's a poignant note here of death and destruction transformed into a resurrection of sorts by art's intrepid, life-endowing spirit.

The religious leitmotif, "worship," builds on Delacruz's explorations of pantheism, creationism, folklore, and feminine spirit. In one seamless horizon, he portrays the reverential, worshipful spirit of man as basically feminine and woman. In addition, to this artist, the supernatural is natural, heaven basically founded on the here and now.

The Catholic Christian sensibility may balk at the New Age proclivity of such a vision, but one must remember that even the Catholic liturgy is strong on the ritualistic import of nature and creation. Moreover, the Catholic cult of Mary shows how the maternal dimension dominates Catholic mysticism.

(Delacruz, after all, was a scholar at the University of Santo Tomas School of Fine Arts of the Dominicans, tireless promoters of the Holy Rosary of the Blessed Mother.)

Autobiographical

But where is the male spirit in all of this? To be sure, the spirit as woman is seen through the sensibility of a male artist like Delacruz.

In a way, these are intensely autobiographical works since Delacruz had lived with the Manobo cultural communities in Sultan Kudarat in Mindanao in the 1980s, and it was during this episode that he came into both natural and preternatural contact with the mythological *diwata* of the wilderness. The show is nothing short of an artistic confession by an artist whose gender otherwise is predisposed to restraint, control, and reining-in.

Ah, but there's really no reining in of Delacruz's compositional verve, exquisite formalism, many-layered graphic boldness, and virtuoso colorism.

The female figuration is confined mainly to visage, which, however, is marked by gestural minimalism that defines dramatic mien with precision. When Delacruz tackles nudity, he melds the female form with flora, and the graceful anatomy is contrasted with the rich detailing of the foliage. It seems nature emerges from the woman's stark nakedness.

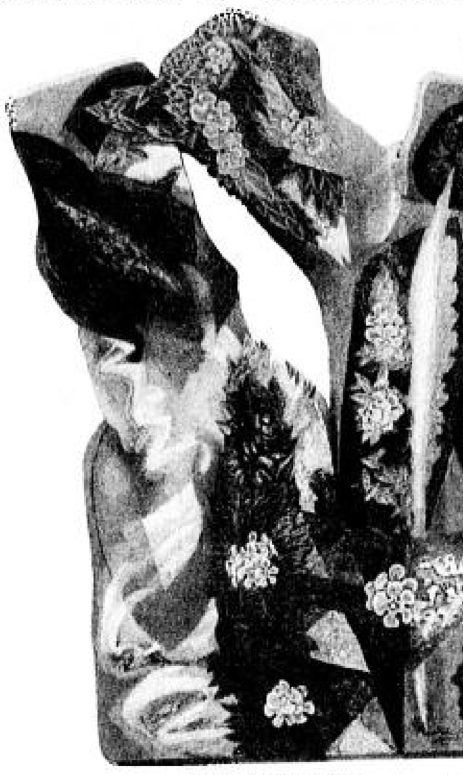
The colors range from rainbow hues to ecstatic earth tints and celebratory golds. But even here, Delacruz remains consistent with his iconography.

Gold, for example, is a color of royalty—and dignity—in indigenous Filipino cultures. In medieval culture, gold was a symbol of God as well as heavenly illumination; in short, wisdom. Worship, in both indigenous Filipino and Western medieval cultures, is a plumbing of the divine to achieve enlightenment and wisdom.

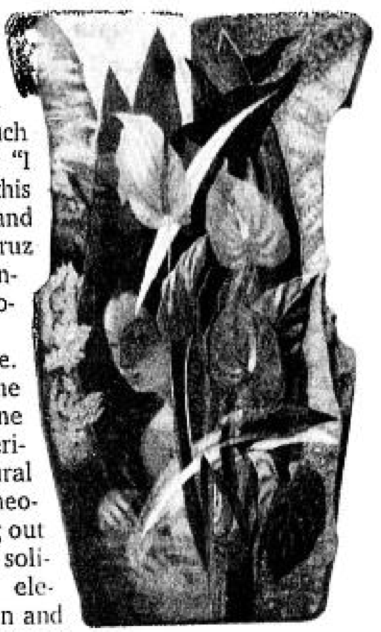
But all of this "raid of the unspeakable" (the Trappist mystic Thomas Merton's phrase) is moored on nature and the here and now; in the case of Delacruz's art, on felled wood. It is as if life has been upheld on the tomb of the dead (one remembers here National Artist J. Elizalde Navarro's witty remark about Delacruz's golden paintings as indications of life amid so much death in the art scene: "I am very glad that for this year of abundant bad and ho-hum art, Fil Delacruz brings to the art scene a sanguine and golden produce.")

It cannot be otherwise. Art as divinity means the artist giving up his divine attributes in order to experience humanity and natural vicissitudes: This is the theological *kenosis*, a draining out of one's powers to form a solidarity with the fragile elements. The transformation and triumph, however, is achieved by *kinesis*, the sheer artistic energy of creative demiurge.

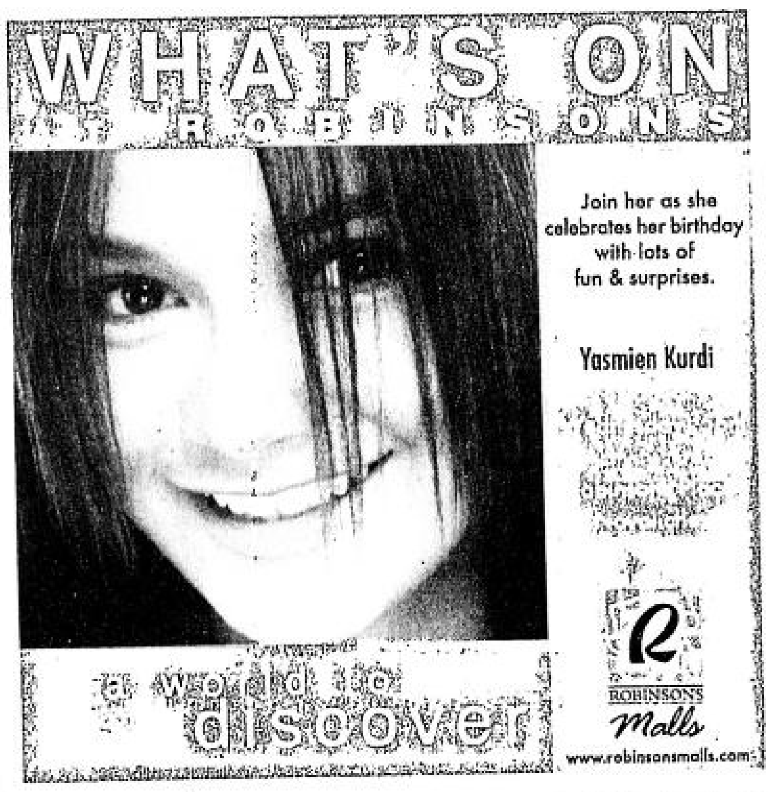
The world becomes whole again, and balance is restored. In almost all aspects of his creation, Delacruz reaffirms art's kenotic, kinetic spirit.



"PINAGPALA"



"BUKANG Liwayway"



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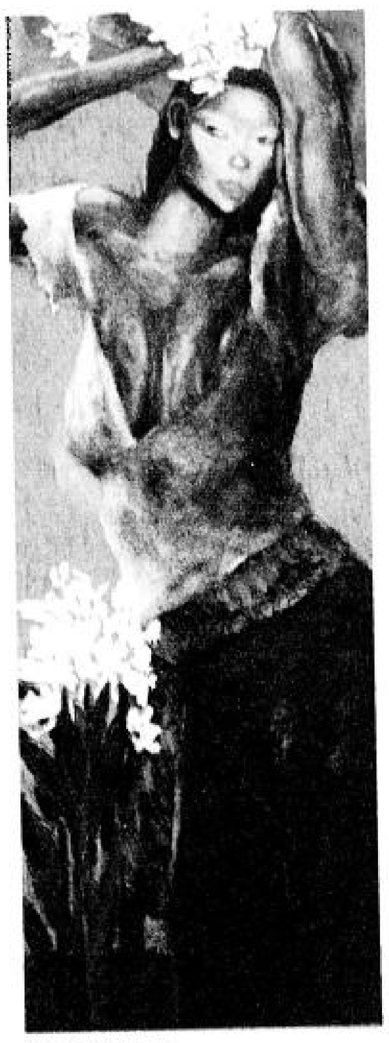
Lydia Velasco, woman artist


"WOMAN" I

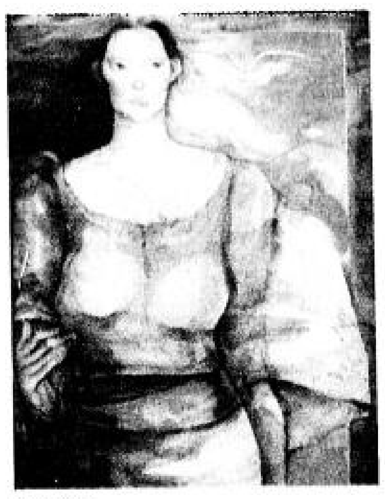
By Joanna Marie Grace Romero

FROM HER HUMBLE beginnings as a fish vendor in Malabon to her serious entry in the art scene, Lydia Velasco unveils through her art the story of a heroine struggling in a predominantly male environment.

Evident in her art is an expressionist's attempt to liberate women from preconceived roles and stereotypical associations in a highly patriarchal society.

What she provides is an alternative perspective on womanhood by depicting unconventional, provocative and intriguing women attributes. These portrayals of women combine a sensual, religious and motherly touch.

Her inspirations stem from both recollections of her childhood and budding years to the deepest emotions brewing inside her. She even recalls the time when she would watch her *lola* chewing *nganga* (betel nut). She has painted works of women *nganga* vendors.


"INA"

She transforms women into full-bodied creatures to signify strength of character. The chinky eyes and sharp features add solid details to their yellowish tones and muscular frame. The strokes and contours that extend freely in her images evoke freedom.

Velasco's art is a progression of hues, medium and style, even her identity. Her soul-searching in the arts in the early '90s began with sketching women figures and painting faceless bodies.

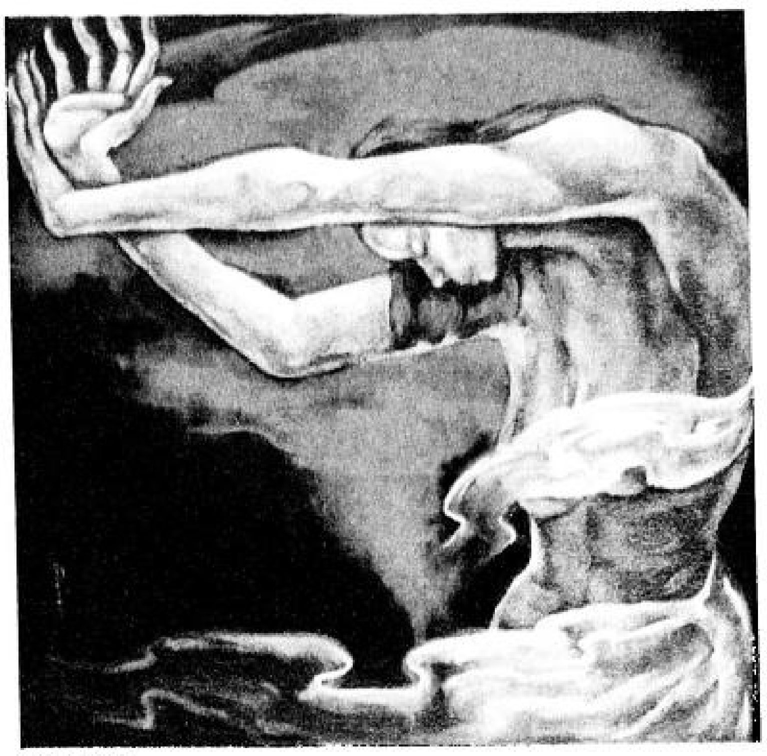
It was in 1994 when she achieved her breakthrough as art contemporaries, peers, critics and collectors noticed how remarkably well she could bring contrast on a canvas, using striking blends of yellow, green and red tones while piecing together ideas both to celebrate womanhood and reveal her inner senses.

She was raised in Navotas where she had to start early on selling fish at the *talipapa* of nearby town Malabon to augment the meager earnings of her father and help support the family. Her father worked as a set designer for LVN studios while her mother took care of the house and reared her other siblings.

"*Gapang kalabaw kami noon dahil sa hikahos*," she pronounces.

She took up Fine Arts major in Advertising at the University of Sto. Tomas and worked under prominent art directors such as Cesar Legaspi and HR Ocampo. She was part of Ocampo's art group assigned in creating storyboards for soap commercials. Even then, she showed an inclination toward women figures.

Lydia returned to painting in 1992. She chairs Kulay Marikina, a group of artists supporting the young art enthusiasts of the city. She is also a member of Malang's Saturday Group of Artists.


"DANCE"

Velasco will have an exhibition, "La Danse," which will open on Jan. 25 at the Centre Gallery of Galerie Joaquin. The show will feature 35 figurative paintings showing the evolution of Velasco's art.

"La Danse" will run until Feb. 8. Galerie Joaquin is at 371 P. Guevarra St. cor. Montessori Lane, Addition Hills, San Juan. Call 7239253 or 7239418.

Visit www.galeriejoaquin.com or e-mail info@galeriejoaquin.com.

LEWANDA LIM

Her painterly fabrications

By Constantino C. Tejero

THE DIASPORA OF FILIPINO BRAINS AND talents doesn't happen only in a few fields such as theater, education, medicine, science and technology. The sad fact is, it extends even to art.

You keep wondering why an accomplished artist like Butch Payawal, for example, no longer holds exhibits, until you learn the man has gone to the Middle East for some advertising job. Multiply such incident by scores and you'd have a fair estimate of the loss to Philippine art.

Fortunately, often these artists do not stop from art-making, and living away from their homeland only intensifies their art, so that when they return they bring with them powerful works.

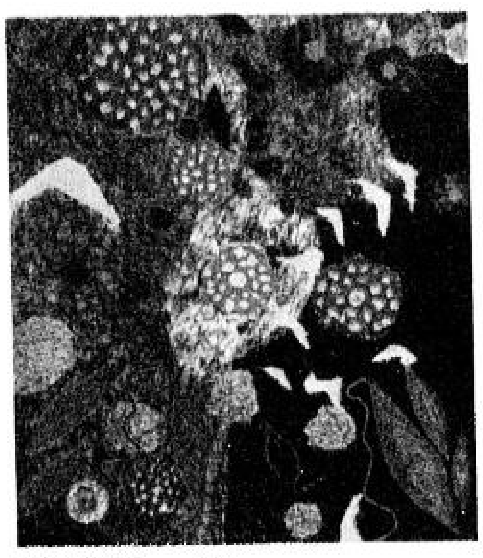
Such is the case of US-based painter and printmaker Lewanda Lim, who is holding her first solo exhibit in the country this month.

Lim graduated from the University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts, where she taught for many years before moving to Canada in the mid-1970s. She took her master's degree in Studio Art at the State University of New York, and held solo exhibitions in Massachusetts, Philadelphia, New York.

Now living in Ohio, Lim has returned to the local art scene after almost 30 years to mount "Lewanda's Fabrications," 18 pieces in assorted fabrics, until Jan. 24 in West Gallery at the Artwalk, 4/L Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

These are fabric collages of variegated hues and forms, teetering between tapestry and carpet. Not quite Pacita Abad's *trapunto* art, and far from Imelda Cajipe-Endaya's assemblages of textile swatches, Lim's is nevertheless painterly in design.

While she explores in oil and acrylic and in print (collagraph, etching, monoprint) a variety of styles from abstract expressionism to realism (still lifes, landscapes, genre scenes with political or environmental commentaries), these collages are chiefly abstracted yet hinting at figures.

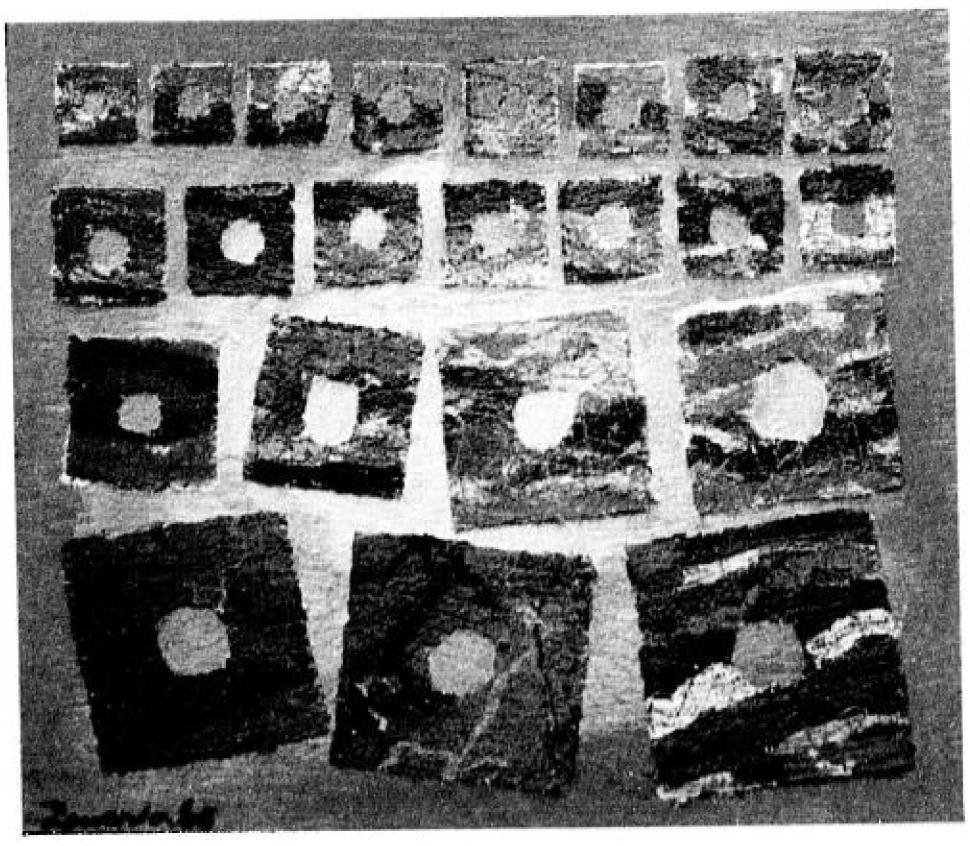

"MARINE Reverie"

In the geometrical abstraction of "Marine Reverie," for instance, one perceives identifiable shapes, free-floating forms suggesting plants and creatures one can see under the sea.

These pieces are notable for their bold color tonality, as in the contrasting harmonies of "Marine Reverie" and "Easy Rhythm." The former's cool harmony of blue, green and violet accented with splotches of red and yellow is a stark contrast to—indeed, a reverse of—the latter's rich warm harmony of red, orange and yellow accentuated with blue and green.

These collages were created in six years. The artist reveals how she came up with her technique: "One day, I was challenged by the tangles of knitting and embroidery threads that settled in my fabric and sewing boxes. And I didn't want to throw them away. Suddenly a bulb lit up in my head, and, presto, I started cutting up the threads and randomly dropping them on a plain fabric."

The exhibit's information sheet relates: "She ran them on the sewing machine in all directions, until she achieved an entirely new surface and fabric, and added different kinds of fabric to create forms that would anchor her compositions. Thus 'Lewanda's Original Wearable Art' was born, gracing the Textile Museum in Washington, DC, and a prestigious artisan gallery along Madison Avenue in New York."


"EASY Rhythm"

Dadivas at Mandarin, Gabuco at Y, Ramirez at Metro, Montera in Cebu

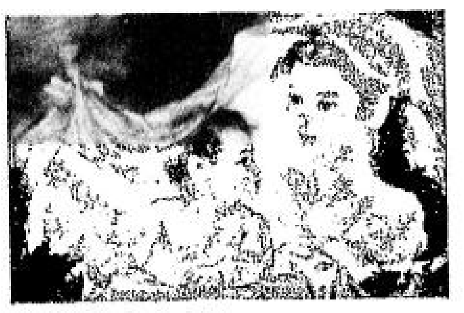
VISUAL ARTS

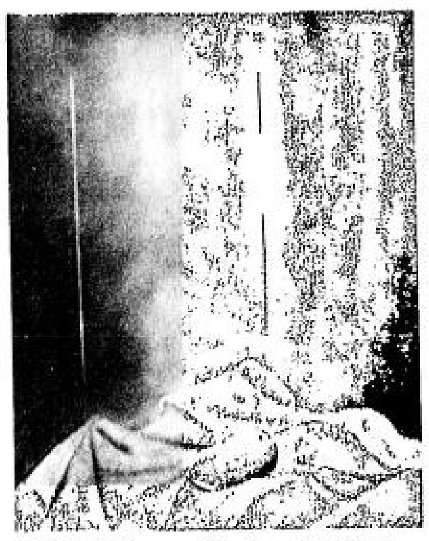
IMPRESSIONIST LUZ VERCELLES-Dadivas and her son, Oliver John Dadivas, recently held a joint exhibit with artist-scholar Nestor O. Vinluan, former dean of the UP College of Fine Arts, at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Makati. In the event, they were given recognition by the Philippine-Austrian Cultural Society through Austrian Ambassador Herbert Jager for their artistic contributions. The works can be privately viewed. Call 0927-4873307 or 6331467.

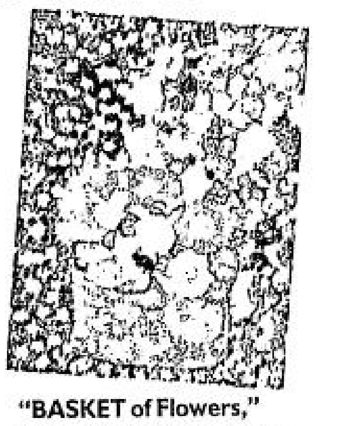
CALOY Gabuco will hold an exhibit of new works on Jan. 27-Feb. 6 at Galerie Y (4/F, SM Megamall). The exhibit consists of Mother and Child images as well as still lifes and landscapes.

FRED Ramirez's abstracts will be on show at the Metro Gallery (P. Guevarra St., San Juan) on Jan. 29-Feb. 28. The works are the ones featured in the book "Modern Art," published by Marlene Aguilar. Ramirez will also open a show at the Artes Figuras Gallery in Bacolod on March 3. Call 0927-5335170 or 0917-8115399.

AN EXHIBIT featuring artworks by the Orobia family—impressionist Maestro Orobia and his sons Bastee, Abe and Juan—is ongoing until Jan. 27 at the Central Atrium, Robinsons Place Pioneer, Mandaluyong City. Call 5691812, 0921-4825906, 0926-3165554, or e-mail orobiakpp@yahoo.com or hslpwm2@yahoo.com.ph.


"VEIL," by Caloy Gabuco


"GREEN Mango," by Fred Ramirez


"BASKET of Flowers," by Luz Vercelles-Dadivas

STEPHANIE Coyiuto will exhibit her photographs in the show "Shifting Phases" on Jan. 25 at The Gallery, 3/L, Manila Peninsula Hotel. The exhibit will feature 30 works, a mix of black-and-white silver gelatin prints and digital prints, and colored digital prints. From Jan. 28 to Feb. 5, the exhibit will be on display at the Heritage Art Center (4/L, Building A, SM Megamall).

"MYTH and Meaning," an exhibit by the Mangyan Heritage Center, is on view at MuseumSpace, 2/F, Ayala Museum, until today. Call 0918-7337927 or 7577117 to 21.

SIO Montera will open his latest exhibit of abstracts, "Evolution," on Jan. 27 at SM City Cebu. The exhibit is largely autobiographical and presents labor-intensive works on such themes as historical progression, spiritual awakening, social transformation and mandala. The exhibit runs until Feb. 11. Call (032) 2319851.

E.R. TAGLE will hold an art workshop to introduce the use of charcoal, watercolor, oil pastel and mixed media, with focus on subjects such as family unity, hard work, love of God and care for the environment. Call 8112432 or 0927-5522288.

Concert to benefit Bohol church conservation

THE INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED Loboc Children's Choir will perform in a benefit concert, "Dauis sa mga Awit: A Dinner Concert," on Jan. 28 in Dauis, Bohol.

The concert is part of the fiesta celebration of Dauis. It will take place at the scenic church plaza by the seaside.

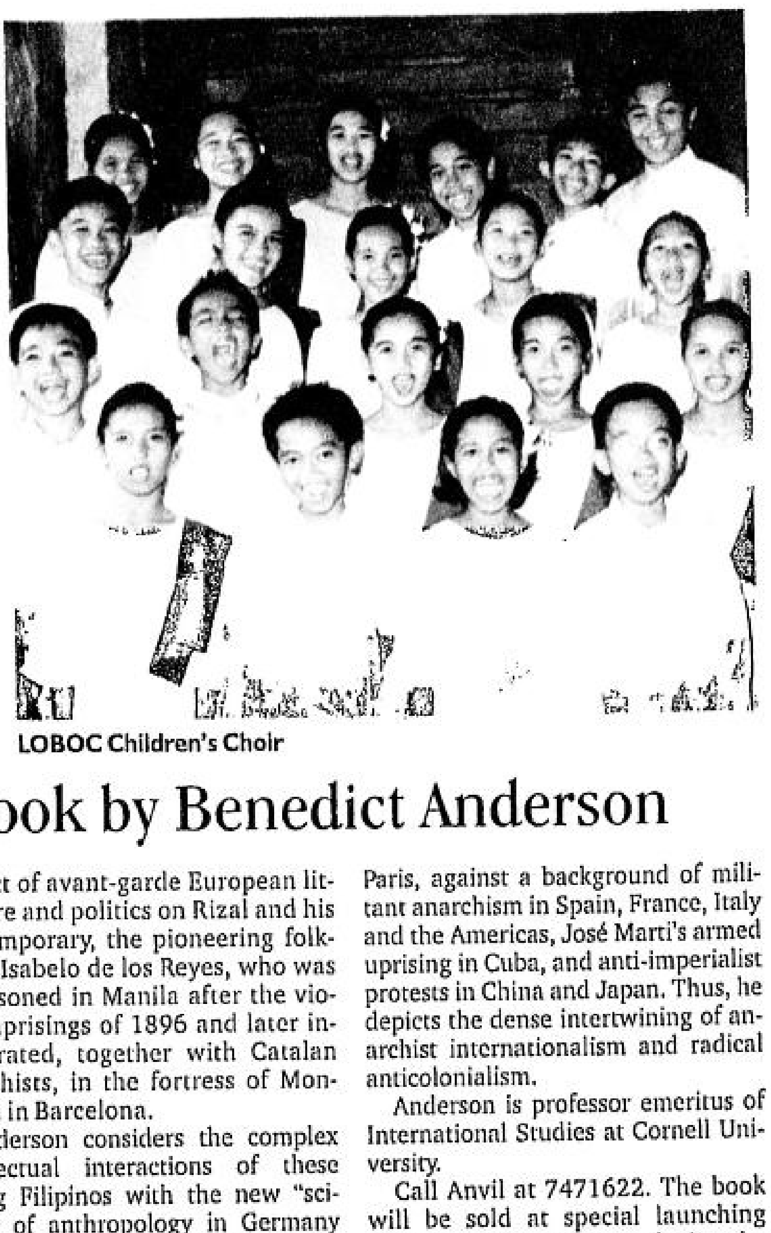
The concert will formally establish and launch the Assumption Shrine Heritage Fund, which will work for the restoration and preservation of the historic Roman Catholic church and convent of Dauis.

Donations of P500, P1,000 and P5,000 will be accepted by the foundation during the event.

Aside from the Loboc Children's Choir, performers include the Alicia Bamboo Ensemble, a group of public elementary pupils from the municipality of Alicia.

A fluvial parade carrying the image of Our Lady of the Assumption will be held on Jan. 29 at Sitio Manaol in Barangay Tabalong.

Donations to the Heritage Fund may be sent to Assumption of Our Lady Shrine, Poblacion, Dauis, Bohol. Call (038) 5022008.


LOBOC Children's Choir

Lecture and new book by Benedict Anderson

ANVIL PUBLISHING INC. AND THE National Museum will host the lecture-book launch of "Under Three Flags: Anarchism and the Anti-Colonial Imagination," by Benedict Anderson, Jan. 24, at the Tambunting Hall, Museum of the Filipino People, National Museum.

The first part of the launch is the "Pang-ulo" lecture, part of a series of activities for the exhibition "Pang-ulo: Philippine Ideas about Heads, Headwear and Heads of Community."

"Under Three Flags" explores the impact of avant-garde European literature and politics on Rizal and his contemporary, the pioneering folklorist Isabelo de los Reyes, who was imprisoned in Manila after the violent uprisings of 1896 and later incarcerated, together with Catalan anarchists, in the fortress of Montjuich in Barcelona.

Anderson considers the complex intellectual interactions of these young Filipinos with the new "science" of anthropology in Germany and Austro-Hungary, and with post-Communard experimentalists in Paris, against a background of militant anarchism in Spain, France, Italy and the Americas, José Marti's armed uprising in Cuba, and anti-imperialist protests in China and Japan. Thus, he depicts the dense intertwining of anarchist internationalism and radical anticolonialism.

Anderson is professor emeritus of International Studies at Cornell University.

Call Anvil at 7471622. The book will be sold at special launching prices of P395 and P180 during the launch.

Integrating heritage with development policy

Conclusion

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

CHINA PASSIONATEly rejected the decaying heritage architecture in its old cities, pulled them all down quickly for instant replacement with towering structures.

However, after a decade of rapid expansion and modernization, China has learned to value its architectural heritage and to see to it that neighborhoods of old architecture have an important place in modern China.

The old neighborhoods give new China an identity, a link with the rich history of the Chinese people, and a validation that, despite the highly modernized lifestyle in Chinese cities today, the traditional living patterns as seen in old houses remain applicable in today's lifestyle.

In Shanghai, the old houses in a traditional neighborhood were conserved and reused to become today's Xintandi, a widely successful entertainment-shopping destination that combines old and new with stunning architectural results. Financially the development is a success as well, proving that money can, indeed, be earned from conservation.

Today it is one of the most popular destinations for locals and tourists in the city, a stellar example of how old architecture can continue to serve our 2006 lifestyle.

The Xintandi example, contrary to popular belief, proves that conservation is progressive. It does not freeze a city and its people in their past. Although conservation builds on the past, it brings the city forward into the future, which is the rationale behind the development of a successful heritage and development plan.

Freezing residents into an old life pattern simply because they happen to live in a heritage area goes against development goals. It prevents their successful integration into the 21st century.

Usually residents of heritage neighborhoods are forced to relocate. Their abandoned houses become the nucleus of a redeveloped neighborhood that changes in use from residential to commercial without considering that residents have the right to benefit from neighborhood improvement.

During the Xintandi recycling process, the attention was solely on conserving and reusing the heritage structures without consideration for the original residents who eventually were displaced. The Xintandi setting was conserved at the expense of the original living pattern.

Conservation practice today looks at conserving both the heritage structures and—as much as possible—the original living pattern that had taken place within them so that everyone would benefit—city, developers, and resident stakeholders.

In considering the content of development guidelines vis-à-vis conservation of heritage, there are guidelines that illustrate various approaches to the issue. A suggested reference list:

- "The Venice Charter," International Council on Monuments and Sites (Icomos), Paris
- "Historic Towns Charter," Icomos, Paris
- "Vernacular Architecture Charter," Icomos, Paris
- "The Burra Charter," Icomos, Australia
- "Principles for the Conservation of Heritage Sites in China," The Getty Conservation Institute, Los Angeles, CA, USA
- "Hoi An Charter," Unesco, Bangkok
- "Preservation Districts for Groups of Historic Buildings in Kyoto," City Planning Bureau, Kyoto, Japan
- "Yogyakarta Regulation about Building," Yogyakarta, Indonesia
- "Ordinance #04, An Ordinance Enacting the Preservation and Conservation Guidelines for Vigan Ancestral Houses," Vigan (World Heritage Property), Philippines
- "PD 1616, Rules and Regulations Governing the Development of Intramuros," Manila, Philippines
- "Conservation Guidelines and Technical Supplements," Urban Redevelopment Authority of Singapore
- "Maintaining Historic Buildings," National Parks Service (US), Department of the Interior
- "Preparing a Historic Preservation Ordinance," Report No. 374, American Planning Association Advisory Service

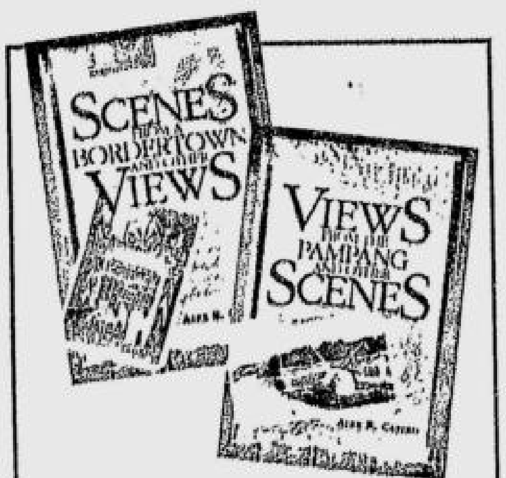
ILLUSTRATION: ANTHONY MISTADES

The time is right to begin thinking of development programs that are sensitive to heritage conservation as a means of improving quality of life and establishing a sense of pride of place among Filipinos. Such programs may even result in the Filipino rediscovery of the excellence of his culture, something so sadly lacking in the psyche of today's population.

And to bring everything into reality, why not a pilot project to serve as a model to prove that it is possible for all sectors to work together toward development and heritage conservation.

E-mail the author at afvillalon@hotmail.com

> Conservation means conserving not only the structures but also the original living patterns within such structures


SCENES FROM A BORDERTOWN AND OTHER VIEWS
VIEWS FROM THE PAMPANG AND OTHER SCENES

Unique book on Pampanga

A UNIQUE TWO-VOLUMES-IN-ONE book on Pampanga will be launched on Jan. 28, at Casa Nena, St. Therese of Lisieux Bldg., Holy Angel University, in Angeles City.

The book, by Alex Castro, will be presented by the Juan D. Nepomuceno Center for Kapampangan Studies, of which Castro is a consultant/museum curator.

Mabalacat's history unfolds on the first part of the book, "Scenes from a Bordertown and Other Views," which pieces together the town history from diverse primary historical sources as the unpublished Luther Parker Collection, Historical Data Papers, archival materials obtained by the Center from the National Library like the Erecciones and Estadisticas de la Provincia Pampanga, canonical books on microfilms as well as Querubin Fernnadez' unpublished manuscript on Mabalacat.

When the book is flipped over, it becomes "Views from the Pampang and Other Scenes," a visual feast of essays based on the author's vast collection of Kapampangan-themed pictures amassed through the years.

To lead the book launching are Mabalacat Mayor Marino P. Morales and Pampanga board member Dr. Prospero Lagman. Art critic Cid V. Reyes will deliver remarks.

Castro is a Makati-based advertising executive who still goes home to his native Mabalacat during weekends. He hails from Sta. Ines. This is his first book and a fitting tribute to his town which is celebrating its 294th birthday on Feb. 2.

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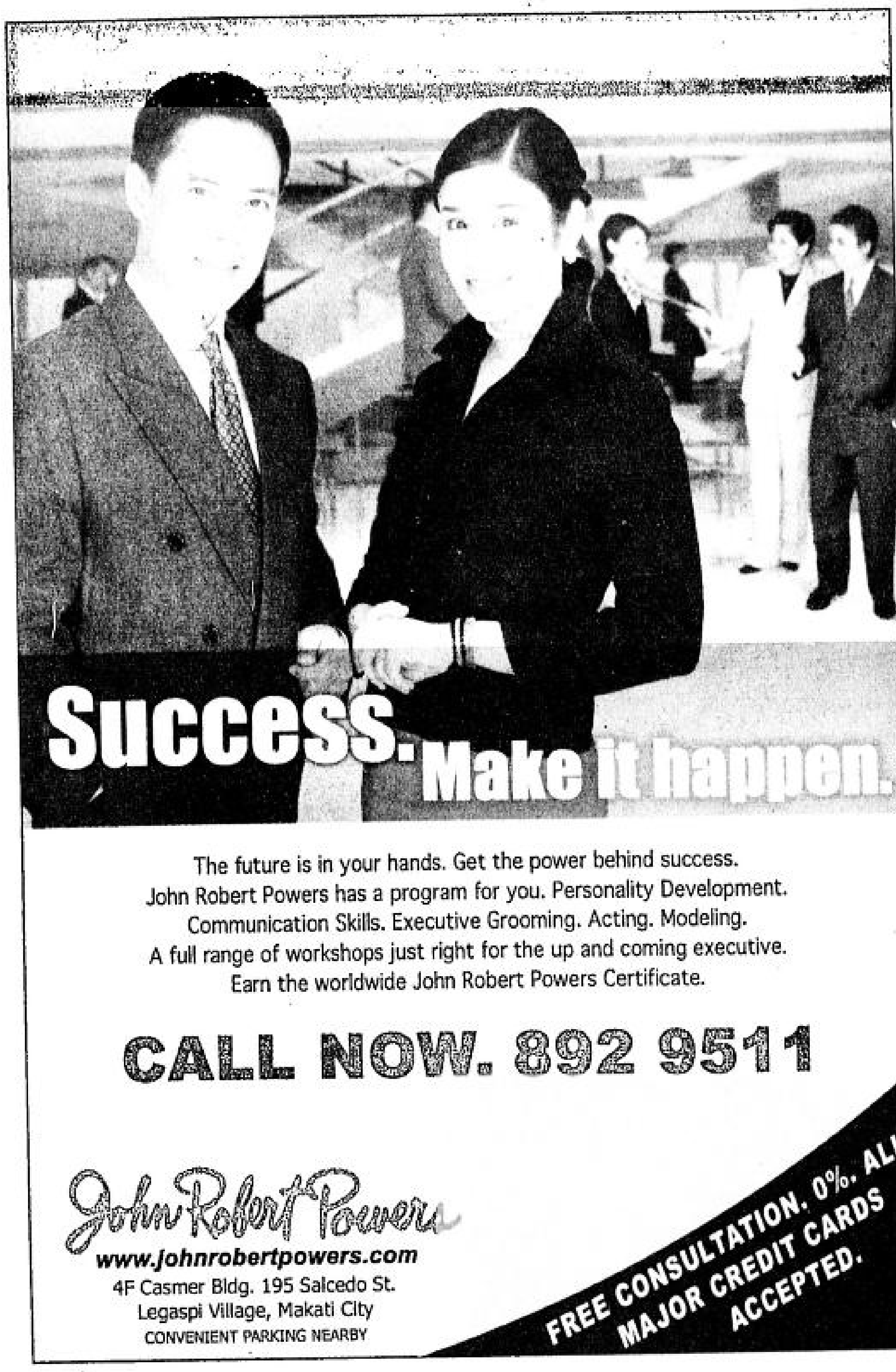
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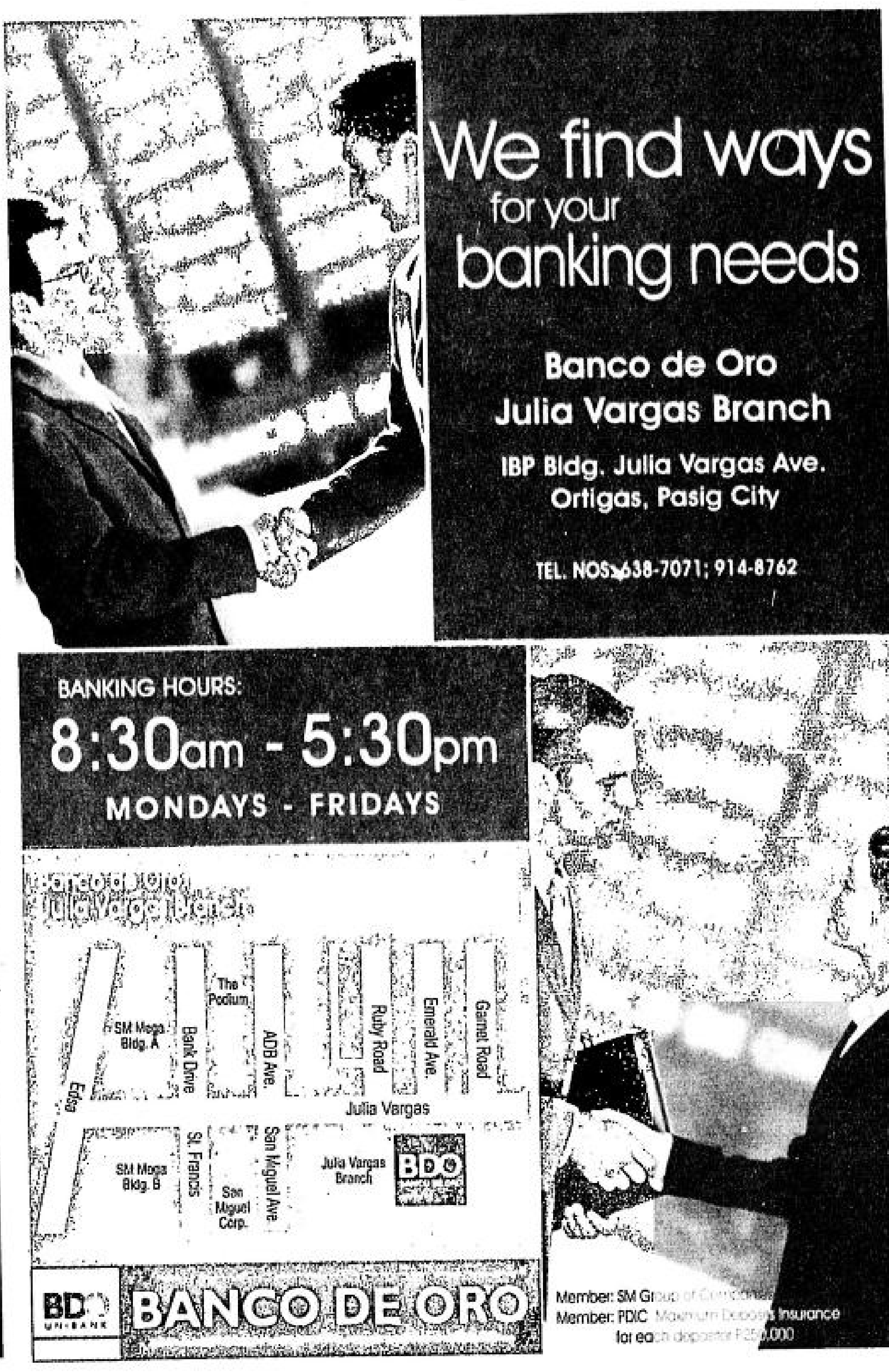
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British Council hosts youth camp

THE BRITISH COUNCIL is hosting the Young Global Citizens Camp in Davao as part of its Connecting the Futures program.

The program aims to facilitate dialogue between young people in the UK and other countries so that they can explore their own and each other's identities and learn more about mutual concerns and interests.

The Young Global Citizen's Camp seeks to empower potential young leaders to become catalysts for positive changes in their communities.

The camp is going on at Davao's Eden Nature Park and Resort, until Jan. 24. Fifty young people from the UK, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines are taking part.

Call Nannette Mercado (0917-8971390) or Patrick Erestain (0918-9300708/(02)914-1011 loc. 154).

Apostol lectures on journalism amid crises

EUGENIA DURAN-APOSTOL, FOUNDING publisher of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, will deliver the third annual UST Varsitarian José Villa Panganiban (JVP) Professorial Chair in Journalism Lecture on Jan. 27, 2 p.m., at the Thomas Aquinas Research Complex auditorium, UST campus, España, Manila.

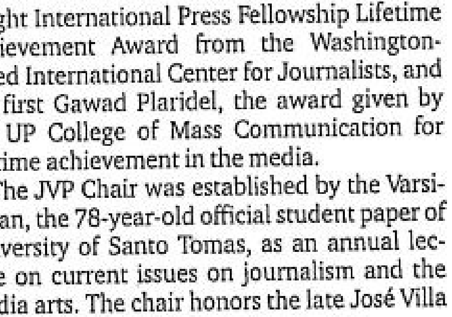
Editor and publisher of Mr. and Ms. Magazine, Apostol will lecture on responsible journalism amid crises in the Philippines.

Apostol was the Outstanding Thomasian Alumna in media in 1999. She graduated magna cum laude from UST in 1948 with a degree in Litt. B in Journalism. She received the Knight International Press Fellowship Lifetime Achievement Award from the Washington-based International Center for Journalists, and the first Gawad Plaridel, the award given by the UP College of Mass Communication for lifetime achievement in the media.

The JVP Chair was established by the Varsitarian, the 78-year-old official student paper of University of Santo Tomas, as an annual lecture on current issues on journalism and the media arts. The chair honors the late José Villa Panganiban, founder of the Varsitarian.

Panganiban (June 12, 1903) was a writer, journalist, linguist, lexicographer, radio personality, scholar and teacher. He served as director of the old Institute of National Language (now the Komisyon ng Wika) and is acknowledged as one of the foremost promoters and developers of the national language.

The lecture is open to the public. Call 4061611 loc. 8235 and look for Edsel Van D.T. Dura (0919-7817011). E-mail us at varsitar@yahoo.com.



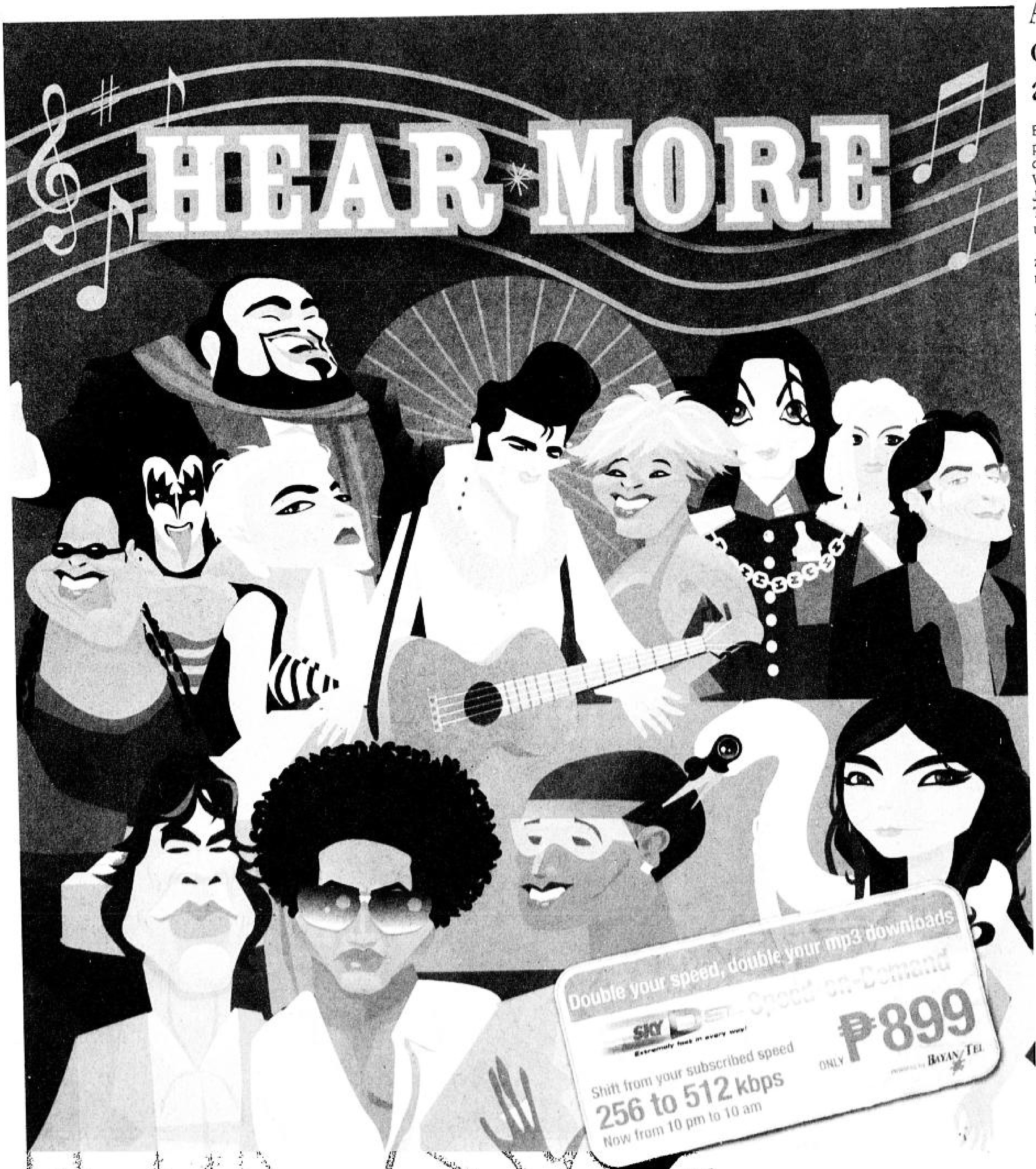
CLAIRE Belliones

PWU recital

CLARIJANE BELLIONES OF THE PHILIPpine Women's University, former student of pianist Jonathan Coo, now under Richelle Rivera, will be having her junior recital at the Conrado Benitez Hall, PWU, Taft Ave., Manila, on Jan. 25, 3 p.m.

Claire, who started learning piano at the age of four, was a grand prize winner at the 2004 Picazo Piano Competition and a finalist in the National Music Competition for Young Artists (Namcya) Festival, Piano Competition Category C. She is finishing her Bachelor's degree, major in Performance, at the PWU School of Music.

She will be playing French Suite No. 5 in G Major, by J.S. Bach; Sonata Quasi Una Fantasia; Sonata in Eb Major, Op. 27 No. 1, by L.V. Beethoven; Transcendental Etude in F Minor, by Franz Liszt; Fantasiestucke, Op. 111, by R. Schumann, "Kintang," by Ramon Santos, Danzas Argentinas, by Alberto Ginastera; and Concerto in Bb Major, K450, by W.A. Mozart.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Credit card marks milestone

YOUNG on top
/D2

A DIFFERENT sort of Owen Wilson
/D3

PERKS and more
/D4

'BARKADA' card
/D4

Metrobank Card Corporation reaches 500,000 credit cards

METROBANK

ANZ

IN GOOD hands with Metrobank. From left, Metrobank president Antonio Abacan Jr., Xandra Ty, MCC vice chair Anjie Dy-Buncio, Mary Ty, MCC president Anne Young, Mary Abacan, and Metrobank vice chair Arthur Ty

METROBANK Card Corp. president Anne Young has made MCC one of the fastest-growing card companies in the country today, closing 2005 with 500,000 cards.

Woman on top

WHEN BANKING executive Anne Young was tasked to helm the Metrobank Card Corp. (MCC), the New Zealander had no qualms. Instead, Young embraced the challenge, gathered a bright young team of experts and, under her watch, made MCC one of the fastest-growing credit card companies in the country today.

She makes sure that there's synergy between Metrobank and ANZ Bank

MCC TEAM heads: (from left) Kitten Samaniego, credit; Aloy Alday, sales and marketing; Rene de Borja, finance; Arnold Tom, business technology; Peaches de la Cruz, collections; Mikal Rallonza, operations; Minette Santos, human resources; Xavier Javier, compliance

Before becoming MCC's president, Young has had extensive experience in the credit card and retail banking business of ANZ Bank in Australia and New Zealand. Young was integral in the completion of ANZ's entry into the Philippine credit card industry through its joint venture with Metropolitan Trust and Bank Company in MCC.

It is her personal vision that MCC be the result of the strength, leadership and local knowledge of Metrobank, backed by the technology and expertise of ANZ.

"I attribute the growth of MCC to the entire team. ANZ lends its structure and systems, but our understanding of the profile of the Philippine clients is not as deep and as good as Filipinos themselves. Members of our team contribute valuable strategies on how to approach the local market," says Young.

MCC has reached 500,000 cards—a milestone. As Young explains, "Awareness was our priority. While everyone knew Metrobank as the country's biggest bank, very few knew that it had credit cards. So we had to intensify our efforts in creating awareness for our products. Assisted by Metrobank's reliability and network, it became less tedious than we expected."

"The next steps," she adds, "include further developing quality and client-oriented products, and improving client service."

Young sees only greater things ahead. "Prospects are looking very positive. Our challenge now is to continue the momentum and hopefully be on top."

ROLANDO de Leon, former Unibancard senior vice president; Antonio Abacan Jr., former Unibancard president and incumbent Metrobank president; and George Ty, Metrobank chair

MR. & MS George Ty with Unibancard executives and VIPs

JOSÉ Araullo (left), first Unibancard president and former Philippine Savings Bank president, inks a deal with Antonio Abacan Jr., former Unibancard president and now Metrobank president.

Metrobank Credit Card Corporation makes history

The credit card marks its 20th year with a bang

METROBANK CARD CORP. (MCC) has gone a long way.

In August 1985, led by Jose Araullo as president, Unibancard began operations with Unicard as its first product. The Dollar MasterCard was then launched in 1994 under the stewardship of then Unibancard president Angelita Jao.

Under former president Mary Ty from 1996 to 2001, Unibancard introduced the Visa Dual Currency Card. As a result of Metrobank's acquisition of Solid Bank and Asian Bank, the operations of Solid Card and AB Card were merged with Unibancard.

With Unicard's cardholder base at the 145,000 level, Unibancard unveiled the Value MasterCard and started issuing a string of Private Label Cards in 2001.

Unibancard moved back to its original headquarters, now called the GT Tower, in 2002 during the term of president Cynthia Valenzuela. The year 2003 saw Unibank enter into a joint venture with ANZ, one of the largest financial institutions in the Australia-New Zealand region and a company that ranks in the world's top 50 banks.

Perhaps just as noteworthy was ANZ being named Bank of the Year for a record six years in a row.

Valenzuela was named board chair in 2004, and Anne Young became president. This was also the year that Unibancard assumed the name Metrobank Card Corp.

MCC has launched a range of new card products, including the PSBank MasterCard, Platinum MasterCard, Femme Visa, and USDollar MasterCard. It likewise revitalized existing products and services such as the Balance Transfers, Rewards and Air Miles Programs, Cash2Go, and 'M Here.

From its humble beginnings offering just one local card, MCC marks its 20th anniversary as one of the most exciting, respected and sought-after credit cards in the country today.

MCC ended last year with 500,000 cards in force.

Match made from Down Under

ANZ bigwig says partnership with Metrobank is stronger than ever

ANZ INTERNATIONAL PARTNERship managing director Owen Wilson leads ANZ's strategic alliances throughout Asia.

One such alliance is Metrobank Card Corporation (MCC), a joint venture with banking giant Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company.

The executive, who was formerly the chief finance officer and chief operating officer of ANZ's Institutional Banking Division, shows confidence and wit. "I was waiting when I was going to be asked about my films," he says, jokingly referring to his Hollywood namesake.

ANZ is one of the leading banking and financial services groups in the Australia and New Zealand region. More than three million "Down Under" bank with ANZ.

The establishment offers a full range of financial products and services, including personal banking and wealth management, consumer finance, corporate banking, investment banking, trade and transaction services, and more.

On the international frontier, ANZ maintains a branch network throughout Asia in addition to six consumer banking partnerships. It is also the number one bank in the Pacific region.

"Partnership is a special kind of business, because no matter how attractive a company, the partnership doesn't happen unless there is mutual understanding," Wilson says.

"Partnership is about comfort and trust in the relationship, and we found this with Metrobank. We are genuinely impressed with the culture of its leaders and management. Mr. George Ty and Mr. Arthur Ty are extremely wise business leaders and wonderful to work with. They put a lot of value on people.

"The same is true with ANZ. We believe people must be inspired and motivated. This is a corporate value we share with Metrobank."

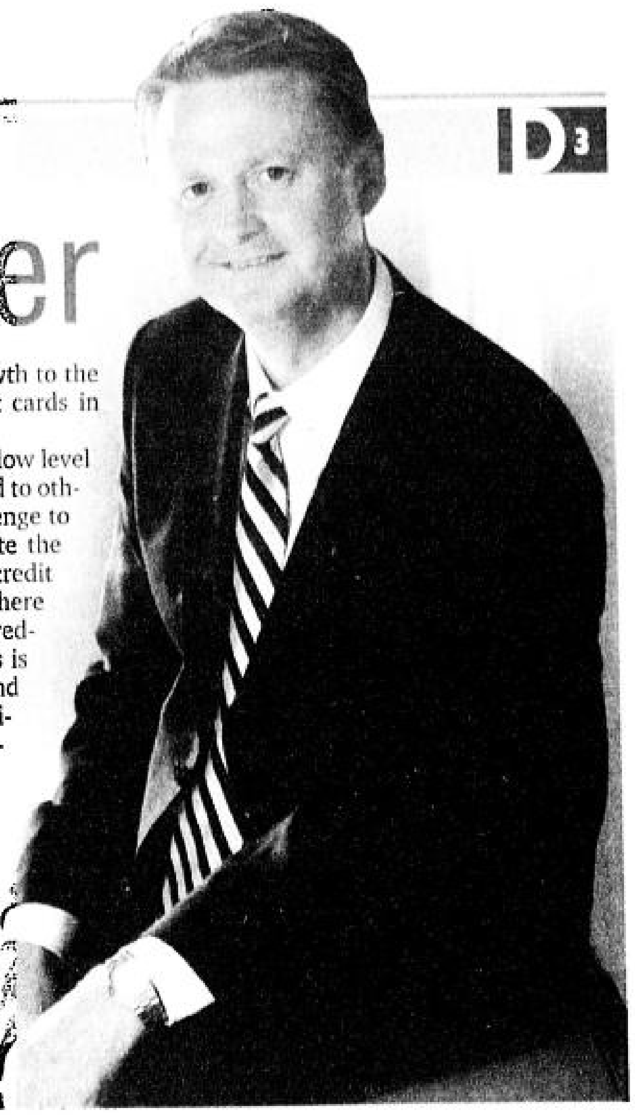
"In partnering with a company, we have to asses the particular expertise ANZ brings to the table, and acknowledge what can be more effectively handled by our local partners," Wilson adds.

"In the Philippines particularly, we impart our knowledge in risk management, collection processes, and information technology. Each of these aspects has to be tailor-fit to the Philippine market."

The formula has proven effective as seen in MCC's rapid growth. "MCC has seen enormous growth in its card base, at the same time delinquencies have been minimized, which shows how effective our risk-management procedures are," explains Wilson.

He also attributes this growth to the increasing demand for credit cards in the Philippines.

"The Philippines still has a low level of credit-card usage compared to other countries. There is a challenge to create awareness and educate the public of the benefits of a credit card such as convenience. There is still a stigma because it is credit. Although a challenge, this is also a great opportunity and that is why we are so optimistic moving forward. Despite competition, we predict the business to bloom rosily in the year ahead."



HOLLYWOOD looks (and namesake) with banking expertise. ANZ managing director for international partnerships Owen Wilson looks forward to a stronger partnership between Metrobank and ANZ.

MCC president Anne Young (center) joined by Manila's hottest designers; Jojie Lloren, Joey Samson, Ivarluski Aseron, Avel Bacudio, Dennis Lustico and Randy Ortiz

STYLISH SET. Sigalit Djemal, Cesar Gaupo, Lulu Tan Gan with daughter Jessie, and Randy Ortiz

STRIPED OUT. Abba Napa and Aimee Marcos

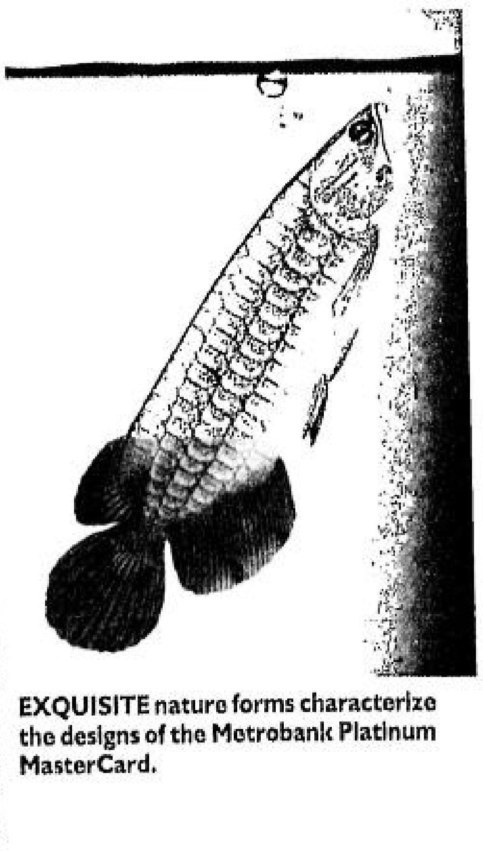
BEAMING beauties Anna Palabyab and sister Marie

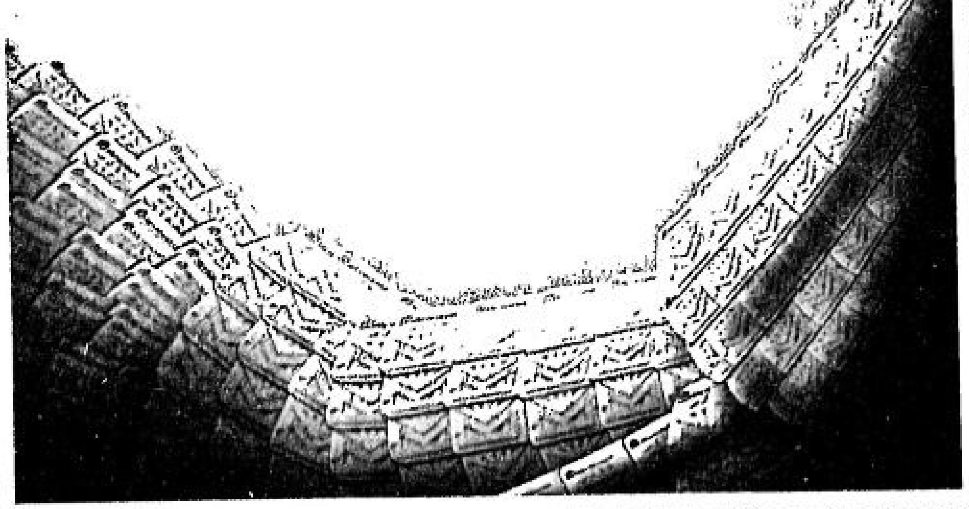
Platinum moments

THE METROBANK PLATINUM MASTERCard provides a variety of power features and world-class privileges.

Metrobank Platinum MasterCard offers a generous credit limit to suit the holder's varied needs. Its services include 24/7 exclusive customer assistance hotline, concierge assistance, travel planning, business arrangements, entertainment, shopping, medical care, and others.

The card likewise provides local and international air miles.





EXQUISITE nature forms characterize the designs of the Metrobank Platinum MasterCard.

Perks, discounts, privileges —all with 'M Here

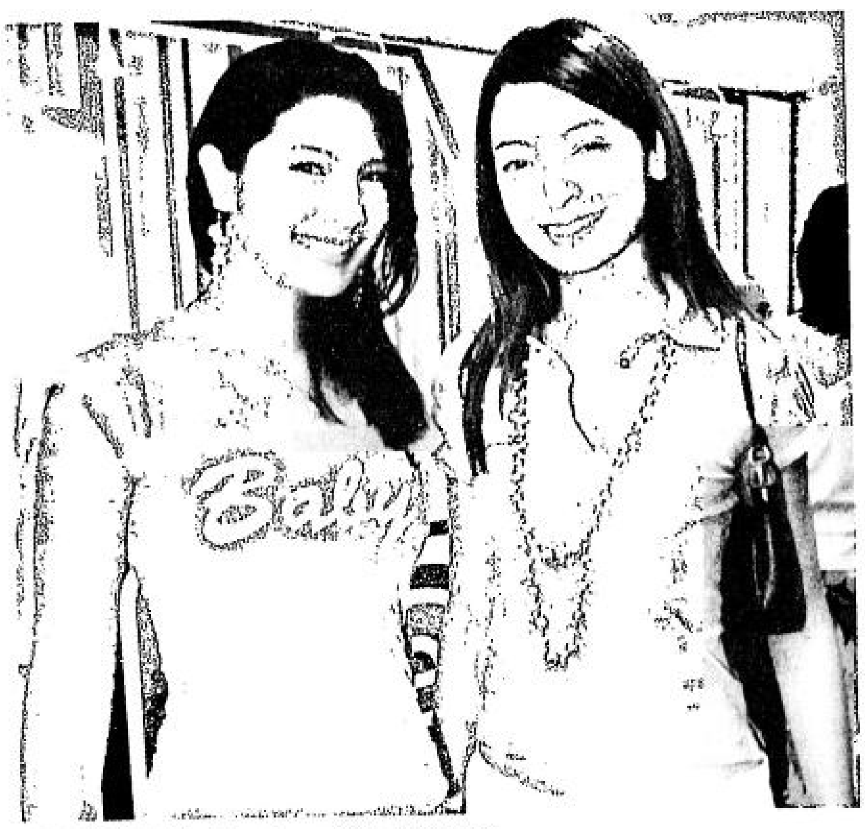
LOOKING FOR GREAT DEALS AND fabulous happenings? Follow the stripes!

'M Here (along with its signature stripe) is a distinguishing look that allows Metrobank Card holders to enjoy perks, discounts, privileges, and other exciting shopping, dining and recreational treats.

Aloy Alday, first vice president of the Metrobank Card Corporation, says, "Wherever one finds the 'M Here striped logo, one is sure to have access to exciting offerings. It is the passport to purchasing opportunities that make the entire experience truly more rewarding."

Fun-filled events, tons of offerings, and loads of freebies are what you get with 'M Here. And since 'M Here is about lifestyle, one can find the stripes in restaurants, specialty stores, boutiques, hotels, resorts, and many more.

Check out establishments with the striped 'M Here sign and have access to the amazing offerings that only the Metrobank Credit Card can bring. So, sign away!



MODELS Bubbles Paraiso and Nicolette Bell

THESE design goodies could be yours with 'M Here. Striped designs by: (from left) Joey Samson, Jojie Lloren, Ivarluski Aseron, Dennis Lustico, Avel Bacudio and Randy Ortiz

Femme and fabulous

Woman on top.

It's a credit card to suit the modern Filipina

MICHELE Sison designs bags inspired by the Femme lady. Femme Visa features include Femme Rewards and monthly Fab Femme Friends selection.

FEMME VISA OFFERS a wide range of features to address the needs of a woman's varied roles—as a career professional, as a mother, wife, and daughter. Femme Visa is designed for the dynamic, accomplished and well-rounded female.

The Femme Visa enjoys international acceptance in 42 million establishments worldwide. Holders may share their Femme privileges with loved ones as they can assign monthly credit allotments to four supplementary cardholders.

FASHION and accessories designer Michele Sison

Payment schemes are easy. Femme Visa allows options that complement the holder's personal finances. Convenient payment channels are available. Holders may make payments at any of 600 Metrobank or PSBank branches.

Account holders may also pay through automated teller machines nationwide.

Femme cardholders are entitled to perks. New holders get three months of free subscription to Mega Magazine. The holders are also automatically enrolled in the JobsDB.com alert service. They also get to be part of the quarterly Career Femme Sessions, covering topics such as financial management, career strategies, and fashion and beauty tips. The sessions are in collaboration with ABS-CBN Publishing.

Femme cardholders also regularly receive Femme Works!, the official newsletter of Femme Visa.

The publication features horoscopes, discounts, cash coupons and freebies.

Other privileges: Femme Rewards and Fab Femme Friends, a monthly selection.

FEMME Visa addresses the many needs of the contemporary woman.

FUN WITH fashion and friends. Give *barkada* time a new beat with Cash2Go BEAT Installment Program.

RACE car champs Dante and Jojo Silverio

BEAT, BARKADA. . .

ARE YOU A PROFESSED SHOPAHOLIC AND partyphile? Shop with your friends in style!

Join the *barkada* in picking out trendy pieces that are sure to be a hit. Whether you are choosing for casual Saturday getaways or night-outs, it will be a time for laughing, giggling, and sheer enjoyment. Making it more fun, of course, is Metrobank Credit Card's Cash2Go BEAT Installment Program that provides countless benefits to make shopping truly a fun and hassle-free experience.

Through this installment program, Metrobank credit card holders can easily avail of funds. No need to submit official receipts, no more cost estimates, no more quotation forms and, best of all, no unnecessary waiting time. What's more, the cardholder can enjoy instant cash that's equivalent to his or her available credit limit.

Availing of cash is also very easy. All cardholders have to do is visit a Metrobank branch and fill out the Installment Availment Form. Within an hour, their check or cash will be ready for claiming. Cardholders can also conveniently choose to pay in 3-, 6-, 9- and 12-month terms at only 1.25 percent per month.

With Metrobank credit cards around, shopping just got to be more fun.

A card to strengthen filial bond

Family togetherness gets a boost

MAKING FAMILY MOMENTS more memorable is your priority.

The Metrobank credit card's Cash2Go BEAT Installment Program is an ideal solution: From the simplest presents to the more extravagant ones like gadgets and relaxing trips abroad, finances are never a problem.

This is true for these fathers and sons—race car champs Dante and Jojo Silverio, and doctors Dante and Daffy Morales.

Dr. Daffy Morales says, "My dad also discouraged me from taking up medicine in the beginning." His father, Dante, explains, "You don't own your time. When a patient gets serious, you must drop everything and leave."

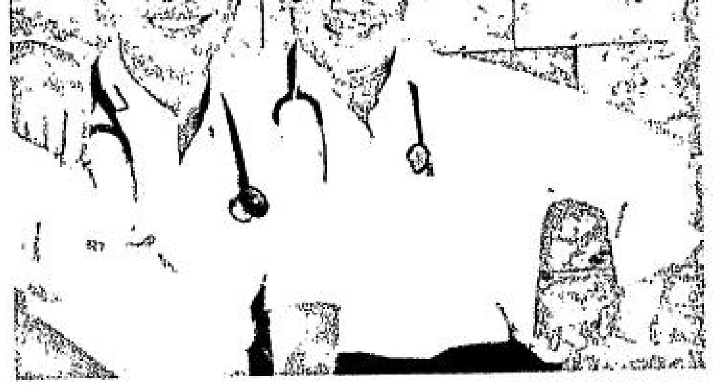
Still, despite the difficulties and constraints of being a doctor, Daffy pushed on. "I saw how the patients viewed my dad and there's no better appreciation you can get than a patient saying, 'Thank you for saving my life,'" he says.

Now that father and son share the ups and downs of the medical profession, they admit to becoming even more bonded by their work. But, when asked what's the best treat for them, both agree: "To travel with the entire family. That's my wish: to bond and enjoy each other's company."

Bonding is something the Silverios also make time for. Racers both, Dante smiles, "I remember the 1987 Marlboro Freedom Rally. Jojo came in first while I was second. I was happy he became even better than I was."

Jojo reacts: "My dad beats me all the time in the race of life. Crossing the line ahead of him doesn't mean I won; maybe he simply gave the chance to me. He'll always be first for me because he's a special guy who always has energy for life. Being a great parent who supports and gives strength to the whole family—that is the real race. My father wins that, hands-down."

With the Metrobank credit card around, spending for a special occasion will never be a big deal.



DOCTORS Dante and Daffy Morales

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Kapal ng orig,
tibay ng orig!
Islander

Rediscovering a National Artist for the stage

By Gibbs Cadiz

CONFESSIONS, CONFESSIONS. Here's one: Until last week we had the foggiest idea about the late National Artist for Theater Severino Montano and his Olympian output of one novel, 150 poems and 50 plays in a 65-year lifetime—a remarkable record by any standard.

For a titan of local theater who died only in 1980, however, we hear pretty little of the man nowadays compared to, say, Rolando Tinio and Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero, two other theater pioneers who share National Artist honors with him and whose works continue to be recognized through new productions.

Montano established the Arena Theater at the Philippine Normal College in 1953, untiringly working as writer, director, producer and manager to, in his own words, "bring drama to the masses."

His roving troupe lugged theater to many remote barrios of the Philippine countryside, and four of his plays became tour staples—the full-length "The Love of Leonor Rivera" and three one-act plays, "Parting at Calamba," "The Ladies and the Senator" and "Sabina."

These works were all written in English. Last week, the UP Playwrights' Theater presented Montano's trilogy of one-act plays in Filipino (the adroit translation was by Joel Saracho, direction by Ogie Juliano) and the effect, at least to this theatergoer, was hearing a singular—and nowadays rarely heard—voice in Philippine theater assume life for the first time with all the color, emotion and stagecraft of important drama.

Trenchant

"Parting in Calamba," a slice-of-history drama, depicts a tension-filled day in the Rizal household a few months before Rizal is executed for treason. The menfolk of the house have all been locked up, the women are anxious and fearful, and Rizal himself, feeling the noose tighten around him, is a bundle of nerves.

Agitated, he lashes out at his mother and sisters, sulks, begs them to stay the course, finally decides to flee to spare them worse persecution from the Spaniards. We know he'll be apprehended on his way to Cuba, and die a hero to his people.

But on this day, he is merely a man on the run, afraid for himself and his family. In 45 minutes or so of no-frills acting and trenchant dialogue, out emerges a portrait of Rizal more alive, more human than all the hagiography that's been erected around his person.

The lines are heart-tugging: *"Sa paglisan mo sa tahanang ito, kasama mo ang aming taghoy saan ka man magtungo,"* says Doña Teodora, her face a mask of grief and surrender to her son's unyielding spirit.

Ermie Concepcion as Doña Teodora leads a crackerjack ensemble, with Frances Makil-Ignacio as the headstrong elder sister Saturnina and Francis Matheu as Rizal also making their marks.

Melodrama

Leah Tarynne Abella, who plays Trinidad in "Calamba," comes into her own in the third play, "Sabina," a social-realist melodrama with echoes of "Madame Butterfly."

Sabina is a barrio lass madly in thrall to an American merchant, George Price, to the violent consternation of her tradition-bound family. Abuse and tragedy ensue with their forbidden love, and in this shopworn but still involving tale Montano exhibits his clear impatience with the brutishness of both blind tradition and cosmopolitan flippancy.

Saracho's translation has some repetitive moments that can stand trimming, especially Sabina and George's worshipful repartee. But Abella's passionate performance helps the play attain the grandeur of true tragedy.

Gossipy

The second segment, a comedy, satirizes the gossipy clique of Filipino women in Washington—wives of diplomats and government representatives—who spend a day of their social club preparing for the visit of a Philippine senator.

The catch is that the women are played by men in drag, and the senator is played by a woman. Juliano's conceit (we're assuming this wasn't how Montano originally did it) is a riot, if brawny men wearing vintage Chanel is your thing.

The sight of rouged, stockinged thespians like Andoy Ranay (who would transform into Sabina's raging brother in the next segment) and Ricky Ibe (very funny as the terno-wearing organizer who "futs her poot down" at batty ideas by her co-members) is certainly a hoot.

Still, all that vamping by a cast so obviously thrilled at the chance to play dress-up only manages to tamp, even obscure, Montano's pokes at these chattering horde. Done by real women (who'd see no need for vocal or physical exaggeration, refined insouciance coming naturally to them), "The Ladies and the Senator" would sting so much more, we think.

Legacy

Not that we're complaining. We can only be grateful for the chance to revisit and appreciate the trailblazing legacy of Severino Montano.

Would that his three plays, all staged with appealing economy at the Teatro Hermogenes Ylagan in UP Diliman, be just the start of that rediscovery. We are more than ready for his *"taghoy."*

Pioneering playwright Severino Montano's voice deserves to be heard by a new generation of theatergoers

"Tatlong Maikling Dula ni Severino Montano" runs until Jan. 29. Call 9261349 or 9205301 local 6441.

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13. There will be scheduled daily, weekly, and grand draws during the promo period. A winner who wins in any of the daily draws can still qualify to win in other succeeding daily draws provided that his/her entry qualifies for the cut off period of a particular daily draw. Similarly, a winner in any of the weekly draws can still qualify for the other succeeding weekly draws provided that his/her entry qualifies for the cut off of a particular weekly draw. However, a mobile user can only win once within a scheduled draw.
14. Entries earned daily from 12:00:00MN to 11:59:59PM of that day will qualify for the daily draw. Non-winning entries for the day will not be included in the succeeding daily draws but will be qualified for the scheduled weekly draw and grand draw, subject to the corresponding cut-off periods.
15. The following are the cut-off times for the weekly draws: Entries earned for the week from 12:00:00AM of January 23, 2006 to 11:59:59PM of January 29, 2006 (first weekly draw), 12:00:00AM of January 30, 2006 to 11:59:59PM of February 5, 2006 (second weekly draw), 12:00:00AM of February 6, 2006 to 11:59:59PM of February 12, 2006 (third weekly draw), 12:00:00AM of February 13, 2006 to 11:59:59PM of February 19, 2006 (fourth weekly draw) will qualify for the weekly draw. Non-winning entries for the week will not be included in the succeeding weekly draw but will be qualified for the grand draw.
16. Cut-offs and draw dates for the mobile raffle promo are as follows:

Daily Draws (7 daily draws to be done once a week)

DATES COVERED	Deadline of Entries	DRAW DATE
Jan 23 - Jan 29, 2006	Daily at 11:59:59 PM	Jan 30, 2006, 5 PM
Jan 30 - Feb 5, 2006	Daily at 11:59:59 PM	Feb 6, 2006, 5 PM
Feb 6 - Feb 12, 2006	Daily at 11:59:59 PM	Feb 13, 2006, 5 PM
Feb 13 - Feb 19, 2006	Daily at 11:59:59 PM	Feb 20, 2006, 5 PM

Weekly Draws

DATES COVERED	Deadline of Entries	DRAW DATE
week 1: Jan 23 - Jan 29, 2006	11:59:59 PM, Jan 29, 2006	Jan 30, 2006
week 2: Jan 30 - Feb 5, 2006	11:59:59 PM, Feb 5, 2006	Feb 6, 2006
week 3: Feb 6 - Feb 12, 2006	11:59:59 PM, Feb 12, 2006	Feb 13, 2006
week 4: Feb 13 - Feb 19, 2006	11:59:59 PM, Feb 19, 2006	Feb 20, 2006

Grand Draw

DATES COVERED	Deadline of Entries	DRAW DATE
Jan 23 - Feb 19, 2006	11:59:59 PM, Feb 19, 2006	Feb 20, 2006, 5 PM

17. Prizes are not convertible to cash but are transferable. All prizes are tax-free. Prizes unclaimed after sixty (60) days are deemed forfeited.
18. Winners will be electronically drawn by Uno Mobile, witnessed by a DPC and a DTI representative. All draws shall be made at One Hundred Services, Inc., 3/F DPC Place, 2322 Don Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo Ext.).
19. Winners will be notified by official registered mail and contacted via a call on their registered mobile phones. Only active SIM cards are eligible to win. Winners with inactive SIM cards at the time of redemption will be invalidated and another winner will be declared.
20. Winners will be asked to proceed to the DPC Head Office in 15/F DPC Place Building, 2322 Don Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo Ext.), Makati 1231, and present letter of notification sent to them plus a valid identification ID (e.g., driver's license, company ID, etc.).
21. For provincial winners DPC will deliver the prize to them via courier delivery. Upon delivery, the winner needs to show the letter of notification sent to them by DPC plus a valid identification ID.
22. The LUK4 Mobile Service is available anytime to all Globe (Handyphone, Prepaid and TM), Smart (Gold, Buddy, Talk 'N Text, and Addict Mobile) and Sun Cellular subscribers nationwide.
23. All employees of One Hundred Services, Inc. (OHSI), Directories Philippines Corporation (DPC), Avellana & Associates, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the raffle.

TEXT LUK4
FOR DIRECTORY INFO: Text LUK4 BIZ <name or category> Ex: LUK4 BIZ Italianis or LUK4 BIZ Restaurant
FOR FOOD DELIVERY: Text LUK4 FUD2GO
FOR GIMMICK IDEAS: Text LUK4 GMIK
FOR MOVIE SCHEDULES: Text LUK4 MOVIES
FOR MORE LUK4 SERVICES: Text LUK4 HELP
Send to: 2851 (Globe) 2951 (Smart) 2851 (Sun)
Php 2.50 per request

LUK4 mobile-yellowpages
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PROMO PERIOD: JANUARY 23 TO FEBRUARY 19, 2006
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO.0120 SERIES OF 2005

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(a World Health Federation As

in partnership with the DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION A
PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE and the PH

promoting the Healthy Lifestyle Advocacy Pr

6TH National Annual Conventio

Theme: "Issues and Concern

January 26 to 28, 2006, Carlos P. Romulo Audi

FOUNDATION FOR LAY EDUCATION ON HEART DISEASES

A Profile

By: Adolfo B. Bellosillo, MD, FACC, FSGC, FPCC, FPCP, FPCCP
Founding President, FLEHD

INTRODUCTION

At no time in the history of medicine and coronary artery disease has prevention been recognized and highlighted as in the early seventies when the World Health Organization issued the following statement: "Coronary artrery disease has reached enormous proportion, striking more and more at younger subjects. It will result in the greatest epidemic mankind has faced unless we are able to reverse it by concentrated research into its cause and prevention."

That epidemic, indeed, has come!

Globally, 50 million die each year, 40% of which are coronary and 50% when one includes hypertension and stroke.

In the Philippines, since the early nineties, heart disease has become the number cause of death among Filipinos.

Despite the medical and surgical advances, 60% of deaths occur suddenly. Among the survivors, 30% die while in the hospital and the recurrence rate of heart attack remains high.

Why prevention?

The cost of medical care is staggering and astronomical making good medical care beyond the reach of the general population. In the U.S. and Canada, the decline in death rate is attributed to change in life style which involves control of hypertension, maintaining cholesterol and sugar at normal level, smoking avoidance and cessation, physical activities, and stress management.

Life style change calls for active involvement of the person in preventive program. And active participation gets maximized only if he is educated on matters pertaining to the heart.

Who is to educate him?

Us, physicians, of course.

But do we?

Picture an office of a busy physician or cardiologist. In the midst of silence, while a patient anxiously waits with bated breath for that sum total of the doctor's professional fee and other charges, suddenly you hear the receptionist yell "next".

While the word "next" may just what most would welcome to hear, it does not allow the patient to get to know the diagnosis of his case, the nature of his ailment, the factors that contribute to the development of the disease, the situations that trigger an attack, the treatment options and possible side effects, etc. The word does not give the physician some moments to explain in simple language the above and for the patient to ask questions.

These apparent lapses in communication between patient and physician are not all that strange nor unheard of, only for a different reason or situation.

In the not so distant past, a patient surviving a heart attack, was kept in the dark as to what he was suffering from. It was feared then that the information could trigger another cardiac event, complications, if not sudden death.

But the age of cardiovascular mysticism has long been gone.

Today, the patient is told of everything there is to know in regard to his disease because success in the management of a cardiovascular case involves understanding and participation of the patient in his overall medical care. This, in turn, requires dialogue and communication between patient and his physician.

Regretfully, in this age of patient population explosion, in the present era of fast moving and high technology developments, often times the patients are told just to take the prescribed medications and to come back after a time for follow up.

The education of the public on matters pertaining to the heart has long been advocated by the World Heart Federation which must be extended to all regardless of nationality, creed, color or economic situation in life.

While institutions, agencies, organizations (both governmental and private) as well as civic organizations may very well have education of the public as one of their sworn functions, they are often defaulting for logistical reason, time constraint, inadequate number of personnel trained in the art of communications, priorities, etc.

Interestingly, while Filipinos can proudly claim that we are just about at par with our counterparts in the western countries in terms of knowledge and advances in the medical and surgical management of cardiovascular diseases, the same cannot be said of the practice of preventive cardiology.

Many an hour is spent, and for so often, on conferences, conventions, seminars, symposia and scientific meetings on what is new in the management of hypertension and coronary artery disease, sadly, none so far has been devoted to prevention of cardiovascular problems.

Attempts are made to educate the public. But these have been too few and far between with no serious gesture to reach out to all sector of society.

The past decade saw the proliferation of cardiovascular subspecialty societies but never has there been one with education as its primary goal.

Time can't wait and something had to be done!

THE BIRTH OF THE FOUNDATION

It was then in the dead of winter, while walking desolately the entertainment streets of New York City that the thought of organizing a foundation solely addressing the matter of education of the Filipino community in regard to heart diseases dawned on me.

Thus, during the closing ceremony of the 5th National Annual Convention of the Cardiac Rehabilitation Society on the 6th of February, 1999, the idea was announced.

The Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission stamped its seal of approval giving the Foundation a legal personality on September 2, 1999.

And in the midst of the 7th World Congress of Cardiac Rehabilitation and Secondary Prevention held at the Philippine International Convention Center, the Foundation was formally launched on February 22, 2000 graced by luminaries and world authorities on preventive cardiology.

THE PERSONALITIES BEHIND THE FOUNDATION

The governing body of the Foundation is a Board composed by formidable trustees headed by Mr. Jose S. Concepcion as chairman, with Mrs. Chito Madrigal Collantes, Mrs. Imelda O. Cojuangco, Mrs. Nellie U. Bengzon, Dr. Alberto G. Romulo, Mr. Johnny T. Litton, Mrs. Marixi Rufino Prieto, Dr. Adolfo B. Bellosillo and Dr. Norbert Lingling Uy, as members.

The executive committee is headed by Founding President Dr. Adolfo B. Bellosillo supported by Dr. Vincent Valencia as secretary, Dr. Eleanor Lopez as treasurer, and Dr. Alberto Atilano, Ms Chichi Laperal, Dr. Efren Vicaldo and Dr. Ken Villanueva.

Recognizing the facilitating and coordinating rules that certain governmental agencies may play in the conduct of the activities of the Foundation, partnership with the Department of Health, the Department of Education and the Department of Interior and Local Government was sought resulting in the signing of a memorandum of agreement on July 30, 2001 with Dr. Manuel Dayrit (Health), Hon. Raul Roco (Education) and Hon. Jose Lina (DILG).

A body of regional consultants composed of Mrs. Letty Syquia, Mrs. Ces Manalo and Mr. Mars Lambino was organized to lend support to the provincial activities of the Foundation.

THE FOUNDATION FACULTY

Recruiting volunteers gifted with thorough knowledge of heart diseases and effective communication skills resulted in a faculty of:

1. Adoracion,Nambayan Abad, MD
2. Joel Abanilla, MD
3. Angelita Aguirre, MD
4. Alberto Atilano, MD
5. Adolfo Bellosillo, MD
6. Leandro Bongosia, MD
7. Virgith Buena, RND
8. Eduardo Caguioa, MD
9. Jaime Cayetano, MD
10. Freman Cerezo, MD
11. Roland de los Reyes, MD
12. Achilles Esguerra, MD
13. Pearl Esguera, RND
14. Ruby Frane, RND
15. Marie Simonette Ganzon, MD
16. Helen Ong Garcia, MD
17. Saturnino Javier, MD
18. May Ann Lao, MD
19. Eleanor Lopez, MD
20. Mariano Lopez, MD
21. Ophelia Manlapit, MD
22. Donato Maranon, MD
23. Jovy Martillos, RND
24. Florante Munoz, MD
25. Ruben Ortega, MD
26. Perfecto Palafox, MD
27. Imelda Peralta, RND
28. Cesar Recto II, MD
29. Noel Rosas, MD
30. Diana Jean Roxas, MD
31. Jose Sanchez, MD
32. Elson Sedilla, MD
33. Vivian Serrano, MD
34. Edwin Tucay, MD
35. Milagros Uy, MD
36. Norberto Lingling Uy, MD
37. Zenaida Uy, MD
38. Vincent Valencia, MD
39. Efren Vicaldo, MD
40. Ken Villanueva, MD
41. Eloisa Villaraza, RND
42. Edwin Wenceslao, MD

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Dr.Norberto Lingling Uy

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Mrs. Ces Manalo

LEGAL CONSULTANT

Atty. Roman Romulo

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Dr. Vincent Valencia
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Dr. Eleanor Lopez
Treasurer

MEMBERS

Dr. Alberto Atilano
Dr. Efren Vicaldo
Ms. Chichi Laperal
Dr. Ken Villanueva

Program of Activities

DAY I
Thursday
January 26, 2006

0730 - 0830 REGISTRATION
VISIT THE EXHIBITS

SYMPOSIUM I
Issues and Concerns in Cardiovascular Disease Prevention

Chair: Jesus Canto, MD (Pangasinan Chapter)

0800 - 0830 "Atherothrombosis and Endothelial Control	Edwin Tucay, MD
0830 - 0900 "Rupture & Stabilization of Thrombotic Plaque	Norbert Lingling Uy, MD
0900 - 0930 "Chronic Infection and Coronary Artery Disease"	Cesar Recto II, MD
0930 - 1000 OPEN FORUM	Diana Jean Roxas, MD moderator
1000 - 1030 STRESS DOWNLOAD VISIT THE EXHIBITS	SANOFI - AVENTIS

SYMPOSIUM II
Issues and Concerns in Cardiovascular Disease Prevention
Chair: Donna Jean Aninon, MD (Laguna Chapter)

1030 - 1100 Combination Antiplatelet Therapy for High Risk Acute Coronary Syndrome	Alberto Atilano, MD
1100 - 1130 Arrhythmia Management in the Prevention of Thrombotic Events"	May Ann Lao, MD
1130 - 1200 "Statin: Achieving the Target LDL Cholesterol Lowering Goal"	Vincent Valencia, MD
1200 - 1230 OPEN FORUM	Angelita Aguirre, MD moderator
1230 - 1300 LUNCH VISIT THE EXHIBITS	PFIZER

Symposium III
Issues on Cardiovascular Prevention
Chair: Rosalinda Caraan Mendoza, MD (Batangas Chapter)

1300 - 1330 Fibers and Cholesterol Sequestration	Noel Rosas, MD
1330 - 1400 Cytoprotection and Maximizing Oxygen Utilization in Ischemic Myocardium	Elson Sedilla, MD
1400 - 1430 Herbal and Other Natural Products in CVD	Ofelia Garcia, MD
1430 - 1500 OPEN FORUM	Vivian Serrano, MD moderator GARSWORTH

1500 - 1530 STRESS DOWNLOAD
VISIT THE EXHIBITS
1530 CONVOCATION
Entrance of Colors
Entrance of Convention Faculty
Entrance of Chapter Officers and Faculty
Entrance of FLEHD Officers
Entrance of FLEHD Board of Trustees
Entrance of Keynote Speaker

Invocation	Dr. Ken Villanueva
FLEHD Prayer ("A Prayer To Serve")	Jal Sabas Aracama Jimboy Calisang
Philippine National Anthem	Dr. Joel Abanilla
FLEHD Hymn ("Save Them We All Must Go")	Jal Sabas Aracama Jimboy Calisang
Introduction of Guests	Dr. Vincent Valencia
Words of Welcome	Mr. Jose S. Concepcion Chair: FLEHD Board of Trustees
The State of the Foundation Address (SOFA)	Dr. Adolfo Bellosillo FLEHD President
Awards	Mr. Jose S. Concepcion Ophelia Manlapit, MD
Introduction of the Keynote Speaker	Atty. Roman Romulo FLEHD Legal Counsel
"Preventive Cardiology: The Better Way To Reduce CV Mortality And Morbidity" (Issues and Concerns)	Prof. Rafael Oganov, MD President Russian Federation of Cardiology

INTO THE WORLD OF THE OPERA
(Light Arias for Stress Download)

"Phantom of the Opera"	Jal Sabas Aracama, mezzo soprano Jimboy Calisang, tenor
"Mon Coeur" from Camille Saint-Saens' "Samson et Delilah"	Jal Sabas Aracama
"Nessun dorma" from Giacomo Puccini's "Turandot"	Jimboy Calisang
"Habanera" from Georges Bizet's "Carmen"	Jal Sabas Aracama
"Vesti la Giubba" from Ruggero Leoncavallo's "Pagliacci"	Jimboy Calisang
"Summertime" from George Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess"	Jal Sabas Aracama
"E Lucevan Le Stelle" from Giacomo Puccini's "Tosca"	Jimboy Calisang
"Stout Hearted Men" Sigmund Romberg	Jal, Jimboy and Audience

MR. JOHNNY LITTON
Emcee

DAY II
Friday
January 27, 2006

0730 REGISTRATION
VISIT THE EXHIBITS

Symposium IV
Diagnostic Tools in CVD
Chair: Jose Sanchez, MD

0800 - 0830 Resting and Exercise Electrocardiogram	Mariano Lopez, MD
0830 - 0900 The Troponins	Ken Villanueva, MD
0900 - 0930 The Echocardiogram	Eleanor Lopez, MD
0930 - 1000 OPEN FORUM	Patricio Palmes, MD moderator ROCHE
1000 - 1030 STRESS DOWNLOAD VISIT THE EXHIBITS	

Symposium V
Issues and Concerns in Preventive Cardiology
Chair: Faith Go, MD (Misamis Occidental Chapter)

1030 - 1100 Obesity: Its Impact on the CVS	Joel Abanilla, MD
1100 - 1130 Alcohol and Cardiovascular Diseases	Prof. Rafael Oganov, MD
1130 - 1200 The High Density Lipoproteins	Adolfo Bellosillo, MD
1200 - 1230 OPEN FORUM	Adoracion Nambayan Abad, MD MERCK
1230 - 1400 LUNCH ENTERTAINMENT VISIT THE EXHIBITS	
"Give My Regards To Broadway"	Jal Sabas Aracama Jimboy Calisang Ensemble
"Tonight" (West Side Story)	Jal Sabas Aracama Jimboy Calisang
"Some Enchanted Evening" (South Pacific)	Boy Laraga, MD FLEHD Laguna
"Try To Remember" (The Fantasiks)	Romy Dacun FLEHD CAR
"Bui-doi" (Miss Saigon)	Hilarion Mamanba, Jr., MD FLEHD Pangasinan
"Hello Dolly" (Hello Dolly)	Dexter Dale Briones, MD FLEHD Iloilo
"Memory" (Cats)	Atty. John Go FLEHD Misamis Occidental
"Sunrise, Sunset" (Fiddler on the Roof)	Benbenuto Garcia, MD FLEHD Batangas
"This Is The Moment" (Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hide)	Alvin Colinco FLEHD Negros Occidental
"I'll Be Seeing You" (Right This Way)	Cesar Yap, MD FLEHD Capiz
"The Best of Times" (La Cage Aux Folles)	Jal Sabas Aracama Jimboy Calisang

May Ann Lao, MD. (EMCEE)

SYMPOSIUM VI
Issues and Concerns in Preventive Cardiology (Nutrition)
Chair: Ponciano Aberin, MD (Cordillera Autonomous Region Chapter)

1400 - 1420 Dietary Factors Contributing To Atherosclerosis	Pearl Esguerra, RND
1420 - 1440 Nutritional Assessment Techniques	Imelda Peralta, RND
1440 - 1500 Management of Blood Lipids and Other Nutritionally Related Risk Factors	Virgith Buena, RND
1500 - 1530 Pharmacoeconomics in the Management of Dyslipidemia	Zenaida Uy, MD
1530 - 1600 OPEN FORUM	Eloisa Villaraza, RND
1600 - 1630 STRESS DOWNLOAD VISIT THE EXHIBITS	THERAPHARMA

SYMPOSIUM VII
Issues and Concerns in Preventive Cardiology (Exercise
Chair: Cesar Yap, MD (Capiz Chapter)

1630 - 1700 Exercise and Autonomic Function in Health and CVD	Efren Vicaldo, MD
1700 - 1730 The Athlete's Heart	Saturnino Javier, MD
1730 - 1800 Exercise As Cardiovascular Therapy	Perfecto Palafox, MD
1800 - 1830 OPEN FORUM	Achilles Esguerra, MD

DAY III
Saturday
January 28, 2006

0730 REGISTRATION
VISIT THE EXHIBITS

0800 - 0830 "Transfer Factor: The Role It Plays in the Health of Humans"	Dr. Adolfo Bellosillo

RESEARCH
Chair: Simonette Ganzon, MD

0830 - 0850 "A Study On The Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices on Hypertension of the Residents of 4 Communities of Sto. Tomas, Batangas	Dr. Alexander Mallari MD
0850 - 0910 "Risk Factors of Pathologically Verified Myocardial Infarction and Stroke"	Dr. Michael Hilario
0910 - 0930 "The Effectiveness of FLEHD Public Forum In Engendering of the Basic CVD Health Issues Among the Laity and the Barangay Health Workers	Dr. Jose Donato Magno
0930 - 1000 OPEN FORUM	Freman Cerezo, MD moderator CARDIODYNAMICS
1000 - 1030 STRESS DOWNLOAD VISIT THE EXHIBITS	

Symposium VIII
Issues in the Management of Hypertension
Chair: Matias Apatan, MD (Iloilo Chapter)

1030 - 1100 "Is The Chol
1100 - 1130 "Drug Comb
1130 - 1200 "Hypertens
Risks
1200 - 1230 OPEN FOR
1230 - 1400 LUNCH BR
ENTERTAINM
VISIT THE EX
"Another Op'nin', Anoth
"To All the Girls I Loved
"The Music of the Night
"Nature Boy"
"Younger Than Springti
"Send In The Clown"
"What I Did For Love"

Symposium IX
Issues and C
Chair: Ma. L

1400 - 1430 The Renin
Converting Enzy
1430 - 1500 Angioten
Blood Press
1500 - 1530 Smoking

1530 - 1600 OPEN F
1600 - 1630 STRESS
VISIT THE
1630 ORATORICAL C
"Preventive

"Dance:

The FLEHD Prayer "

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ND DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT with the support of the
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May Ann Lao, MD

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Vincent Valencia, MD

Convention Kit
Gevral Reyes (Metropolitan Pharma)

Awards
Eleanor Lopez, MD

Oratorical Contest
Vincent Valencia, MD

Dance Competition
Ophelia Manlapit, MD
Kathy Tibigar (Pascual Laboratories)

Opening of the Exhibits
Mars Lambino, Esq.

Signage
Joel Andrada (Boehringer Ingelheim)

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Iloilo
MATIAS APISTAR, MD

Misamis Occidental
FAITH GO, MD

Batangas
BENBENATO GARCIA, MD

Negros Occidental
MA LUZ MAAPNI, MD

SPEAKERS

Professor Rafael Oganov, MD
(Pres. Russian Federation of Cardiology)

Joel Abanilla, MD

Alberto Atilano, MD
Adolfo Bellosillo, MD
Virgith Buena, RND
Vicente Caguioa, MD
Pearl Esguerra, RND

Otilia Garcia, MD
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Noel Rosas, MD

Edwin Tucay, MD
Norberto Lingling Uy, MD
Vincent Valencia, MD
Efren Vicaldo, MD
Ken Villanueva, MD

FLEHD JACKET AWARDEES

Officers and Faculty of FLEHD Laguna Chapter
(for having conducted: 3rd Regional Assembly, 1st and 2nd Barangay Health Workers Workshop, 31 Public Forum, 4 Faculty Seminar)

Ernesto Naval, MD
Donna Jean Aninon, MD
Milo Pempengco, MD

Elizabeth Chin Naval, MD
Emelita Pempengco, MD
Antonette Baes, MD

Lydia Martin, MD
Dennis Labro, MD
Marius Moran, MD

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Membership in the FLEHD Clubs is awarded to a company, organization or person who has extended substantial and invaluable support during the first five years making possible the 143 Public Fora, the five Annual Conventions, the three Regional Assemblies and the Barangay Health Workers Workshop on Preventive Cardiology.

Membership carries with it privileges, like: priority to the number and location of booth spaces, sponsorship of lunch symposia, special lectures, snacks and other activities during annual conventions, regional assemblies and barangay health workers workshop on Preventive Cardiology, automatic notification of every important event scheduled, etc.

ACTIVITIES OF THE FOUNDATION

I PUBLIC FORUM ON "THE HEART"

1. College Assurance Plan -	May 3, 2000
2. RFM Corporation -	June 9, 2000
3. Department of Tourism -	July 12, 2000
4. Department of Health -	July 28, 2000
5. Cultural Center of the Philippines -	August 18, 2000
6. Department of Education, Culture and Sports -	August 21, 2000
7. Philippine National Bank -	September 15, 2000
8. Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation -	October 27, 2000
9. Department of Interior and Local Government -	November 6, 2000
10. Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office -	November 10, 2000
11. Department of Foreign Affairs -	February 14, 2001
12. Valle Verde V Homeowners Association -	March 3 & 4, 2001
13. Valle Verde II Homeowners Association -	March 11, 2001
14. Development Bank of the Philippines -	April 25, 2001
15. Department of Finance -	May 4, 2001
16. Department of Social Welfare and Development -	May 30, 2001
17. Central Bank of the Philippines (Main) -	June 13, 2001
18. Association of Generals and Flag Officers (AFP) -	July 6, 2001
19. Malacanang -	August 6, 2001
20. Department of Agrarian Reforms -	September 3, 2001
21. Department of Agriculture -	September 24, 2001
22. Central Bank of the Philippines (Quezon City) -	September 28, 2001
23. National Library -	October 26, 2001
24. National Conference of Public Librarians -	November 8, 2001
25. Bureau of Customs -	November 9, 2001
26. Civil Service Commission -	November 16, 2001
27. Executives of Ayala Corporation -	November 23, 2001
28. Miriam College -	November 29, 2001
29. The Shrine, Mary Help of Christians -	December 15, 2001
30. The Roman Catholic Archbishopric of Manila -	January 11, 2002
31. Pampanga Provincial Government -	January 14, 2002
32. Makati Medical Center -	February 9, 2002
33. Industrial Technology Institute -	February 14, 2002
34. Department of Health -	February 22, 2002
35. Technological, Educational, Skills Development Authority -	March 8, 2002
36. Rotary District 3780, Rotary of Metro Sta. Mesa -	March 9, 2002
37. City of Manila Government -	March 13, 2002
38. Ayala Land, Inc. (Onstage) -	April 21, 2002
39. Batangas Provincial Government -	April 22, 2002
40. Batangas City Government -	May 3, 2002
41. Greenhills Christian Fellowship -	May 18, 2002
42. Cavite Provincial Government -	June 7, 2002
43. Pasay City Government -	June 10, 2002
44. Fort Bonifacio Officers Club -	October 7, 2002
45. St. Mathew College (San Mateo, Rizal) -	October 12, 2002
46. Central Post Office -	November 8, 2002
47. Presidential Security Group -	November 11, 2002
48. National Convention of Public Librarians -	November 20, 2002
49. Daughters' of St. Paul (Pasay City) -	November 25, 2002
50. St. Scholastica College -	December 16, 2002
51. Congregation of the Pious Disciples of the Divine Master -	January 25, 2003
52. Philippine Air Force -	January 27, 2003
53. RMN Radio Station (c/o Gov. Maliksi of Cavite) -	February 2, 2003
54. PNCC Skyway Corporation -	February 14, 2003
55. U.P. College of Human Kinetics -	February 18, 2003
56. Las Pinas City Health Office -	February 24, 2003
57. Congressional Ladies Assn. of the Phil. -	March 5, 2003
58. Cavite Provincial Health Office -	April 23, 2003
59. Phil. Charity Sweepstakes Office -	April 25, 2003
60. Congressman Ernesto Echiverri District of Caloocan -	May 16, 2003
61. VRP Medical Center -	May 22, 2003
62. Phil. Fisheries Development Authority -	June 2, 2003
63. Colegio de San Lorenzo -	June 5, 2003
64. Schools' Division Superintendent, Makati -	July 3, 2003
65. Laguna Medical Society, Governor Ningning Lazaro -	July 5, 2003
66. Provincial Government of Pangasinan -	July 12, 2003
67. Schools' Division Superintendent, Mandaluyong -	July 15, 2003
68. School's Division Superintendent, Pasig & San Juan -	July 17, 2003
69. Far Eastern University -	July 24, 2003
70. School's Division Superintendent, Caloocan City -	July 31, 2003
71. Phil. School of Business Administration -	August 8, 2003
72. Norwegian Missionary Alliance (San Juan, Rizal) -	August 14, 2003
73. Pleasant Mount School, Antipolo City -	August 16, 2003
74. Mapua Institute of Technology -	August 21, 2003
75. U.P. (Los Banos) and International Rice Research Institute Faculty -	August 23, 2003
76. Our Lady of Perpetual Succor, Marikina City -	August 28, 2003
77. Rotary Club District 3780, R.C. of Metro Sta. Mesa -	August 30, 2003
78. Santa Cruz, Laguna (Santa Cruz Medical Society) -	September 13, 2003
79. Department of Agriculture -	September 16, 2003
80. Quota International (Correctional Inst. For Women) -	September 18, 2003
81. Cabuyao, Laguna (Cabuyao Medical Society) -	September 20, 2003
82. Women's Association for Vicente Eusebio (WAVE) -	September 22, 2003
83. Philippine Medical Association (Quezon City) -	September 25, 2003
84. San Pedro, Laguna (San Pedro Medical Society) -	September 27, 2003
85. Pasiguena Organization for Women Empowerment and Recognition (POWER) -	September 29, 2003
86. Lyceum of the Philippines -	September 30, 2003
87. Department of Agrarian Reforms -	October 1, 2003
88. Eulogio Rodriquez Inst. of Science and Technology -	October 2, 2003
89. International Rice Research Institute (for employees) -	October 16, 2003
90. Mapua Institute of Technology, Makati City -	October 29, 2003
91. Sta. Rosa Medical Society -	October 30, 2003
92. TEMIC Automotive Philippines -	November 8, 2003
93. St. Paul's College of Manila -	November 10, 2003
94. Diabetic Club, Alfonso, Cavite -	November 12, 2003
95. Star of Hope -	November 13, 2003
96. Roxas City -	November 15, 2003
97. Immaculate Concepcion of Antipolo -	November 21, 2003
98. Binan Medical Society -	November 25, 2003
99. Macabebe, Pampanga -	November 28, 2003
100. Quota International, Rotary Club of Ortigas Center and RFM Corporation -	November 29, 2003
101. National Economic Development Authority -	December 10, 2003
102. Bulacan State University -	December 12, 2003
103. Angeles, Pampanga -	December 13, 2003
104. Sariaya Medical Society -	December 15, 2003
105. Healthline and DZEC -	December 20, 2003
106. Rotary Club of Makati North -	January 28, 2004
107. Church of Risen Lord, Diliman, Q.C. -	February 7, 2004
108. Lucena, Quezon -	February 13, 2004
109. Rotary Club of Makati South -	February 16, 2004
110. Rotary Club of Ortigas Center -	February 19, 2004
111. Central Bank of the Philippines in Q.C. -	February 20, 2004
112. Young Once of Blue Ridge, Q.C. -	February 21, 2004
113. Dagupan City -	March 5, 2004
114. University of the Philippines, Los Banos, Laguna -	March 13, 2004
115. Manila Polo Club -	March 16, 2004
116. Tayabas, Quezon -	March 21, 2004
117. Lucban, Quezon -	March 22, 2004
118. Barangay Forbes Park -	April 4, 2004
119. Diabetic Club of Cavite, Trece Martirez City -	April 15, 2004
120. San Pablo City -	April 24, 2004
121. Colegio de San Lorenzo, Quezon City -	May 17, 2004
122. Our Lady of Perpetual Succor College, Marikina City -	June 2, 2004
123. St. Mary Magdalene Parish Magdalena, Laguna -	June 5, 2004
124. Center for Health Dev. Cordillera Administrative Division, Baguio City -	June 11, 2004
125. General Agents and Management Associations -	July 16, 2004
126. Santa Rosa, Laguna -	July 23, 2004
127. Hope Christian Academy, Fairview, Quezon City -	July 24, 2004
128. Colegio de la Purisima Concepcion, Roxas City -	August 1, 2004
129. Camp Vicente Lim, Canlubang, Laguna	August 9, 2004
130. Rizal, Laguna Elementary School -	August 17, 2004
131. Municipal Government of Sto.Tomas, Batangas -	September 11, 2004
132. University of Makati -	September 13, 2004
133. Dept. of Health, Baguio City -	September 18, 2004
134. Quezon City Medical Society -	September 21, 2004
135. Binmalay Senior Citizen, Binmalay, Pangasinan -	September 30, 2004
136. Quezon Medical Society, Lucena City -	October 2, 2004
137. Capiz State University, Roxas City -	October 11, 2004
138. U.P. College of Medicine Employees -	November 18, 2004
139. Senior Citizens Club of Urduja Village, Caloocan City -	November 20, 200
140. Laurel, Batangas -	December 1, 2004
141. Valenzuela Health Office, Velenzuela City -	December 6, 2004
142. Manila Health Department (Ospital Ng Maynila) -	December 10, 2004
143. Salesian Corporators, Canlubang, Laguna -	December 18, 2004
144. University of the Philippines in Baguio -	February 11, 2005
145. Caloocan City Health Office -	February 12, 2005
146. Cabuyao, Laguna -	February 18, 2005
147. Manila City Hall -	February 21, 2005
148. University of Makati -	February 23, 2005
149. PTA of Claret School, Quezon City -	February 25, 2005
150. Calamba, Laguna (Barangay Parian and Kalabro) -	March 2, 2005
151. University of Rizal, Morong -	March 18, 2005
152. Bureau of Soils and Water Management -	April 6, 2005
153. Oroquieta, Misamis Occidental -	April 9, 2005
154. National Council for the Disabled Persons -	April 13, 2005
155. Kiwanis of San Pablo City, Laguna -	May 3, 200
156. Tanauan, Batangas -	May 11, 2005
157. Silang, Cavite -	May 17, 2005
158. University of the Philippines in the Visayas -	June 17, 2005
159. Fire Fighters, Camp Vicente Lim, Canlubang, Laguna -	June 29, 2005
160. St. Scholastica Academy, Bacolod City -	July 16, 2005
161. Municipal Employees, Pagsanjan, Laguna -	August 9, 2005
162. Philippine Medical Association, Quezon City -	September 20, 2005
163. Center for Health Development, Quezon City -	October 7, 2005
164. Church of the Risen Lord, UP Diliman, Quezon City -	October 8, 2005
165. Manila Electric Company -	October 24, 2005
166. F.M. Guerrero Elementary School, Paco Manila -	November 25, 2005
167. New Canosa School, Sta. Rosa, Laguna -	December 17, 2005

TOPICS DISCUSSED DURING PUBLIC FORUM:
1. "Know Your Heart And How It Works"
2. "Heart Attack: How Do I Know I Am Having It"
3. "Hypertension: The Silent Killer"
4. "Cholesterol: The Good And The Bad"
5. "Smoke Gets In Your Heart"
6. "Exercise To Your Heart's Content"
7. "Sex And The Heart: Fact And Fiction"

EXTRA FREE SERVICES:
1. Blood Pressure Screening
2. Blood Examination for Sugar and Cholesterol
3. Electrocardiogram
4. Dietary Counseling
5. Medical Evaluation

II NATIONAL ANNUAL CONVENTIONS ON PREVENTIVE CARDIOLOGY
(For Physicians and Health Care Professionals)

1. First National Annual Convention on Preventive Cardiology
(theme: "Preventive Cardiology: Its Time Has Come")
Hotel Intercontinental, Makati City
August 23 - 24, 2001
2. Second National Annual Convention on Preventive Cardiology
(theme: Preventive Cardiology For All Health Care Professionals)
The National Library
January 17 - 18, 2002
3. Third National Annual Convention on Preventive Cardiology
(theme: "Slashing Cardiovascular Mortality and Morbidity the Preventive Cardiology Way")
January 16-17, 2003
Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium
RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City
4. Fourth National Annual Convention on Preventive Cardiology
(theme: Risk Factor Modification for Effective Cardiovascular Mortality and Morbidity Reduction") January 22-23, 2004, Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City
5. Fifth National Annual Convention on Preventive Cardiology
(theme: Preventive Cardiology for the Practicing Physicians)
January 27-29, 2005, Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City
6. Sixth National Annual Convention on Preventive Cardiology
January 26-28, 2006, Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City

III REGIONAL ASSEMBLIES ON PREVENTIVE CARDIOLOGY
(For physicians and health care professionals)

1. First Regional Assembly on Preventive Cardiology
Region VI - Roxas City
College Assurance Auditorium
June 1 - 2, 2002
2. Second Regional Assembly on Preventive Cardiology
July 10 - 11, 2003
Pangasinan Regency Hotel
Calasiao, Pangasinan
3. Third Regional Assembly on Preventive Cardiology
June 25-26, 2004
Splash Mountain Resort
Los Banos, Laguna
4. Fourth Regional Assembly on Preventive Cardiology
June 21-22, 2005
CAP-John Hay Convention Center
Baguio City

IV BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS WORKSHOP ON PREVENTIVE CARDIOLOGY

1. First Barangay Health Workers Workshop on Preventive Cardiology
October 26 - 27, 2004
Sta. Cruz Cultural Center
Sta. Cruz, Laguna
2. Second Barangay Health Workers Workshop on Preventive Cardiology
April 18-19, 2005
Convention Center, Dagupan City
3. Third Barangay Health Workers Workshop on Preventive Cardiology
July 18 - 19, 2005
LCC Auditorium, Calamba, Laguna
4. Fourth Barangay Health Workers Workshop on Preventive Cardiology
July 25-26, 2005
CAP Auditorium, Lipa City, Batangas
5. Fifth Barangay Health Workers Workshop on Preventive Cardiology
August 22-23, 2005
Agno Valley College, Malasiqui, Pangasinan
6. Sixth Barangay Health Workers Workshop on Preventive Cardiology
September 19, 2005
Iloilo Provincial Capitol, Iloilo City
7. Seventh Barangay Health Workers Workshop on Preventive Cardiology
October 3-4, 2005
Baguio General Hospital, Baguio City
8. Eight Barangay Health Workers Workshop on Preventive Cardiology
October 10-11, 2005
Provincial Capitol Social Hall, Roxas City, Capiz
9. Nineth Barangay Health Workers Workshop on Preventive Cardiology
November 7 - 8, 2005
Don Leopoldo Sison Auditorium
Alaminos, Pangasinan
10. Tenth Barangay Health Workers Workshop on Preventive Cardiology
November 28 - 29, 2005
Naguilian Civic Center, Naguilian, La Union
11. Eleventh Barangay Health Workers Workshop on Preventive Cardiology
January 9, 2006
College Assurance Plan Building, Balayan, Batangas
12. Thirteenth Barangay Health Workers Workshop on Preventive Cardiology
January 16 - 17, 2006
Amoranto Stadium, Quezon City

V FLEHD FACULTY SEMINARS

1. FLEHD Faculty Seminar
August 14-15, 2004
Oasis Hotel, Los Banos, Laguna
2. FLEHD Faculty Seminar
October 23, 2004
Splash Mountain Resort
Los Banos Laguna
3. FLEHD Faculty Seminar
November 14, 2004
Baguio City
4. FLEHD Faculty Seminar
May 1, 2005
Taal, Batangas
11. FLEHD Faculty Seminar
May 13, 2005
Los Banos, Laguna

V OTHER ACTIVITIES
1. Symposium on Geriatric Cardiology
February 16, 2005
Punta Villa
Arevalo, Iloilo
2. Seminar on Preventive Cardiology
April 22, 2005
Municipal Health Officers, Laguna

ypertensive Drugs a Game? — Adolfo Bellosillo, MD

Effective Control of sion" — Joel Abanilla, MD
lipidemia: Increasing scular Events — Don Maranon, MD

Ruben Ortega, MD
PFIZER

nsemble"
Alberto Atilano, MD
Joel Abanilla, MD
Enrique del Fuerte, MD
Antonio Chua, MD
Cesar Flores
Ruben Lasala

MMUNITY SINGING
se Were The Days"
Nothing Like A Dame"
"All Of Me"
I Believe"
Ako Ay Pilipino"
esto Naval, Jr., MD
EMCEE

erosclerosis
D (Negros Occidental Chapter)

stem and Angiotensin — Kurt Glenn Jacoba, MD
New Pathways And Targets for Management"
r Blockade For Effective — Lynn Gomez, MD
the Diabetic
nace – Prevention — Prof. Rafael Oganov, MD

Zenaida Torres, MD
BOEHRINGER INGELHEIM

Time Has Come and Act We Must Now"

E COMPETITION
V Risk Factor of Physical Inactivity"
n Ken Villanueva, MD
re" — Jal Sabas Aracama
Jimboy Calisang

Pambansang Awit — Joel Abanilla, MD

The FLEHD Hymn "Serve Them We All Must Go" — Jal Sabas Aracama, Jimboy Calisang

Introduction of Dignitaries and Guests — Ophelia Manlapit, MD
Words of Welcome — Mr. Jose S. Concepcion, FLEHD Board Chairman

Introduction of the Guest of Honor — Eleanor Lopez, MD, FLEHD Treasurer

"The Medical Schools and Preventive Cardiology"

The Rules of the Contest — Vincent Valencia, MD, FLEHD Secretary

Introduction of the Board of Judges — Adolfo Bellosillo, MD, FLEHD President

Oratorical Contest Finalist No. 1
Oratorical Contest Finalist No. 2

Dance Competition Finalist No. 1
Dance Competition Finalist No. 2

Oratorical Contest Finalist No. 3
Oratorical Contest Finalist No. 4
Dance Competition Finalist No. 3
Dance Competition Finalist No. 4

Launching of FLEHD'S "A Song In Thanksgiving" — Jimboy Calisang, Jal Sabas Aracama

Announcement of Winners and Awarding of Prizes:
Oratorical Contest
Chair: Board of Judges
Mr. Jose S. Concepcion
FLEHD Board Chairman

Dance Competition
Chair: Board of Judges
Mr. Jose S. Concepcion
FLEHD Board Chairman

FARE THE WELL
"Auld Lang Syne"
"Till We Meet Again"
"Happy Days Are Here Again"
"Ako Ay Pilipino"

Elizabeth Chin Naval, MD
Dennis Labro, MD
EMCEES

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

A FLEHD Prayer

"A PRAYER TO SERVE"
Words and music by: Jeremiah "Jimboy" Calisang

With much reverence
Lord, we come before Your throne.
We lift our weary hearts.
In You alone we call.
For strength and wisdom.

Lord, In You alone we trust.
Through You we shall prevail.
To do the best we can.
To serve Your children.

Chorus:
Bless our hearts, bless our souls.
Use us Lord, take control.
Let them feel Your love through our works.
And Your grace through our endeavors.
And this we pray in Your Most Holy Name!

Repeat:
Lord, we come before Your throne.
We lift our weary hearts.
In You alone we call.
For strength and wisdom.

Lord, In You alone we trust.
Through You we shall prevail.
To do the best we can.
To serve Your children.

Chorus:
Bless our hearts, bless our souls.
Use us Lord, take control.
Let them feel Your love through our works.
And Your grace through our endeavors.
And this we pray in Your Most Holy Name!

FLEHD Song of Thanksgiving

Music and Lyrics by Jeremiah Calisang
Joyfully, moderato

Now is the time to rejoice,
to celebrate what we have done.
We've won the mission to care,
for healthy hearts to prevail.

Let us celebrate, let us celebrate,
giving thanks to the Almighty One.
Let our hearts rejoice, let our minds be one.
Keep our love and passion in flame
La la la la la la la
La la la la la la la la

Repeat:
Now is the time to rejoice,
to celebrate what we have done.
We've won the mission to care
for healthy hearts to prevail.

Let us celebrate, let us celebrate,
giving thanks to the Almighty One.
Let our hearts rejoice, Let our minds be one
Keep our love and passion in flame.

La la la la la la la
La la la la la la la la

Let us celebrate, let us celebrate
Giving thanks to the Almighty One.
Let our hearts rejoice, Let our minds be one
Keep our love and passion as one.
As one!

A FLEHD HMYN

SAVE THEM WE ALL MUST GO
Lyrics and Music by:
Jimboy Calisang
Orchestration by:
Arnel del Rosario

Off we now go in the blaze of day
fighting the battle row!
Millions of lives whose hearts have been drowned
Save them we all must go.

Teach all the people of the world
a life of strength and pow'r
An ounce of prevention's worth a pound of cure, now
Save them we all must go.

Chorus:
Save them we all must go
Serve them the weak and show
that the lifespan of the hearts will grow
Save them we all must go.

REPEAT
Off we now go in the blaze of day
fighting the battle row!
Millions of lives whose hearts have been drowned
Save them we all must go.

Teach all the people of the world
a life of strength and pow'er
An ounce of prevention's worth a pound of cure now.
Save them we all must go.

Chorus:
Save them we all must go
Serve them the weak and show
that the lifespan of the hearts will grow
Save them we all must go.

Save them we all must go
Serve them the weak and show
that the lifespan of the hearts will grow
Save them we all must go.

HAW, HAW, HEE

Music by: Jeremiah Calisang / Lyrics by Dr. Adolfo Bellosillo

Haw, haw, hee!
Hai kayo dini
Ng Life style na healthy
Magtu turo kami

Haw, haw, hee!

Bawaws itlog, karni
Gulay, prutas-okay
Kayo ba intiendi?

Haw, haw, hee!
Dapat presyon buti

Inum gamut lagi
'Taki puso, no way!

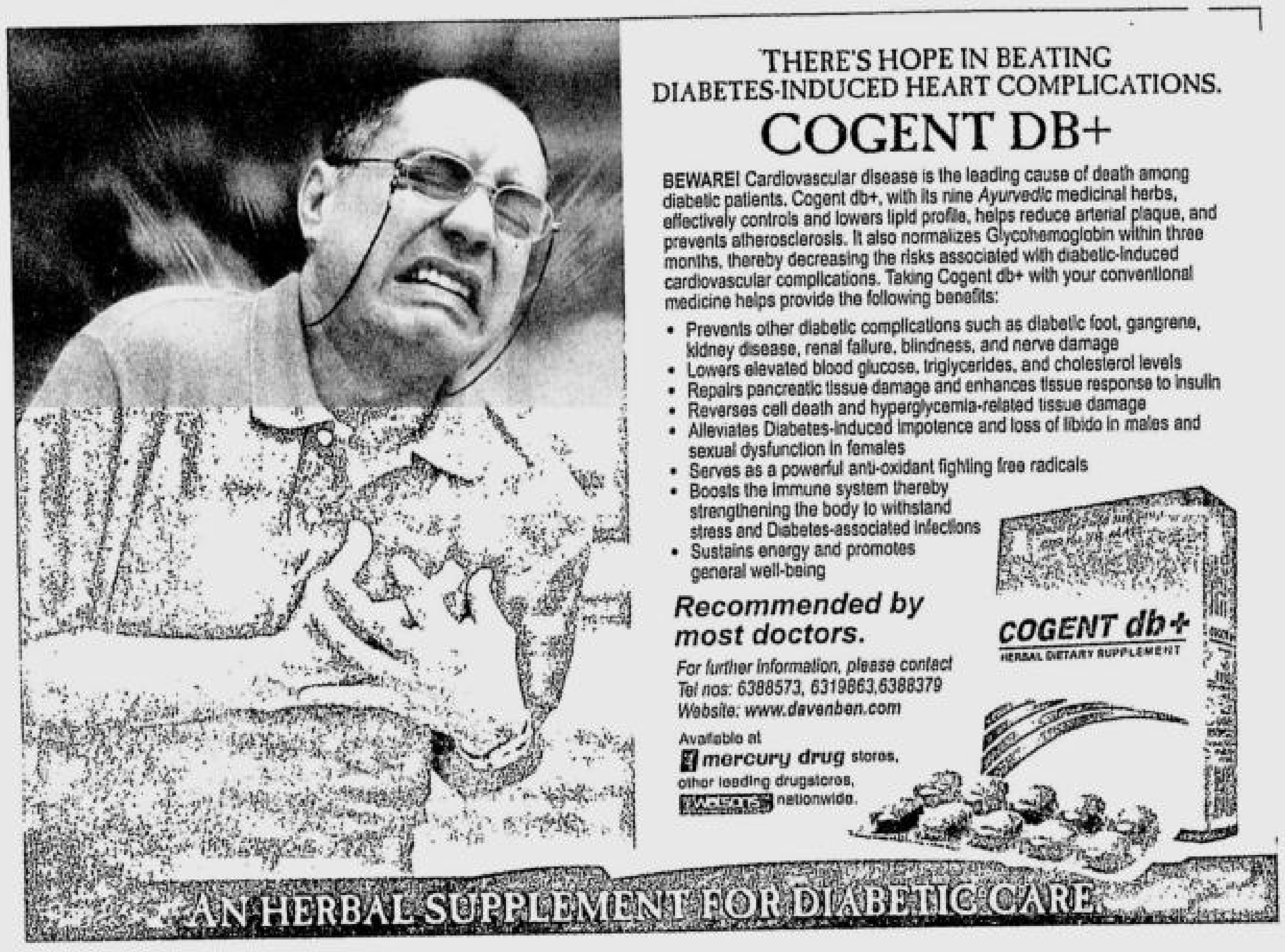
Haw, haw, hee!
Huwag hithit yosi
Osok kotse 'tabi'

Puso saya, ole!

Haw, haw, hee!
'ksersays kayo pare
Sama rin ang mare
Gabi lang kong puede

Haw, haw, hee!
Kaya kinig sabi
Payo ng FLEHD, honey!
Ani mo'y ang dami

Repeat


THERE'S HOPE IN BEATING
DIABETES-INDUCED HEART COMPLICATIONS.
COGENT DB+

BEWARE! Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death among diabetic patients. Cogent db+, with its nine *Ayurvedic* medicinal herbs, effectively controls and lowers lipid profile, helps reduce arterial plaque, and prevents atherosclerosis. It also normalizes Glycohemoglobin within three months, thereby decreasing the risks associated with diabetic-induced cardiovascular complications. Taking Cogent db+ with your conventional medicine helps provide the following benefits:

- Prevents other diabetic complications such as diabetic foot, gangrene, kidney disease, renal failure, blindness, and nerve damage
- Lowers elevated blood glucose, triglycerides, and cholesterol levels
- Repairs pancreatic tissue damage and enhances tissue response to insulin
- Reverses cell death and hyperglycemia-related tissue damage
- Alleviates Diabetes-induced impotence and loss of libido in males and sexual dysfunction in females
- Serves as a powerful anti-oxidant fighting free radicals
- Boosts the immune system thereby strengthening the body to withstand stress and Diabetes-associated infections
- Sustains energy and promotes general well-being

Recommended by most doctors.

For further information, please contact
Tel nos: 6388573, 6319863,6388379
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COGENT db+
HERBAL DIETARY SUPPLEMENT
AN HERBAL SUPPLEMENT FOR DIABETIC CARE

FLEHD SCHEDULED FUTURE ACTIVITIES

January 30, 2006 - 12th Barangay Health Workers Workshop on Preventive Cardiology
Amoranto Stadium Multipurpose Hall
Quezon City

February 11, 2006 - 168th Public Forum on "The Heart"
De La Salle College
Canlubang/Sta. Rosa
Laguna

February 18, 2006 - 169th Public Forum on "The Heart"
Colegio de San Agustin
Binan, Laguna

February 20-21, 2006 - 1st Senior Citizens Workshop on Preventive
Cardiology
People's Astrodome
Dagupan City

March 6 - 7, 2006 - 13th Barangay Health Workers Workshop
Ormoc City

March 17 - 18, 2006 - 2nd Senior Citizens Workshop on P. Cardiology
Calamba, Laguna

April 3, 2006 - 14th Barangay Health Workers Workshop on P. Cardiology
Ligao, Albay

April 7 - 8, 2006 - 3rd Senior Citizens Workshop on P. Cardiology
Roxas City

June 5 - 6, 2006 - 5th Regional Assembly on Preventive Cardiology
Bacolod Convention Center
Bacolod City

Celebrating his 50th Wedding Anniversary was just icing on the cake.

Dahil sa alaga ni Doktor at sa mga gamot na binuhusan ng research, he can live longer and more fruitfully, despite his heart disease.

For Lolo Andy, discovering he had heart disease when he was 60 made him fearful for his and his wife's future. The uncertainty darkened their blissful life. Pero salamat sa Maykapal, sa alaga ni Doktor at ng mga gamot na binuhusan ng research, Lolo Andy today lives happily and fruitfully despite his heart disease. Sulit talaga ang gamot n'ya — gamot na gawa ng Pfizer! Pfizer not only saved his heart, it also helped him and his wife reach 50 years of a love-filled life together. Definitely a milestone worth living for! Sabi nga ni Lolo Andy, dahil mahalaga ang buhay, ang gamot dapat sulit.

Dapat Sulit.
Pfizer

Mahal, ang Puso Mo!

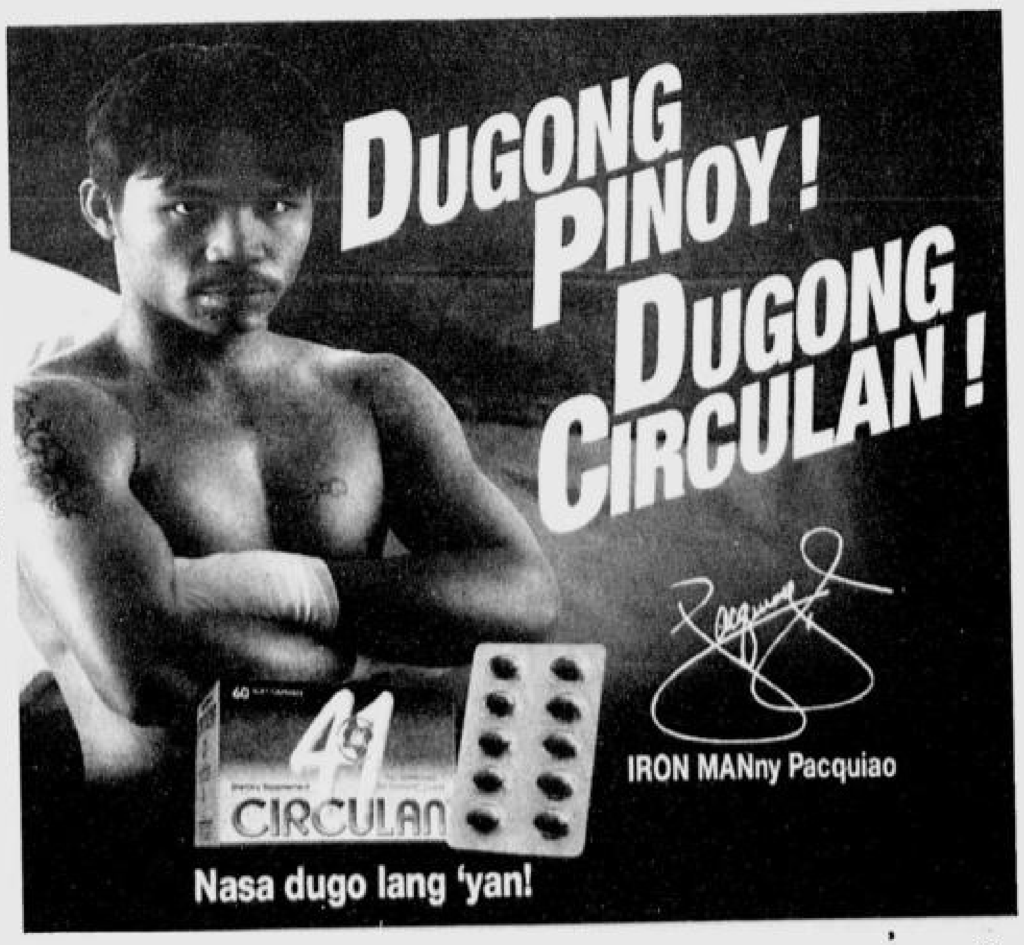
Salamat at naalala mo ang Valentine's Day!
Sana ay huwag mo ring kalimutang inumin ang Cor-30 araw-araw!

Sabi ng doktor natin, ang **Cor-30** ay tumutulong sa ating umiwas sa atake sa puso upang tumagal pa lalo ang ating pagsasama.

Huwag kalimutan ang puso sa Araw ng mga Puso at sa darating pang mga araw!

ASPIRIN
COR-30
Ang tabletang korteng puso. Ginawa para sa puso!

Always consult your doctor!
For more information, e-mail cor30@pascuallab.com
Text HOTLINE: Type cor30 <your message> Send to 0920-9618126


DUGONG PINOY! DUGONG CIRCULAN!

IRON MANny Pacquiao

Nasa dugo lang 'yan!

■ **SPORTS / A20**

Kobe fires 81 points, NBA's 2nd all-time high as Lakers beat Raptors

■ **NEWS / A2**

Police officer who went undercover as GRO cited as top investigator

■ **NEWS / A2**

DFA ordered to help OFW facing death for killing Kuwaiti master

■ **METRO / A15**

Walking 'Book of Knowledge' Ernie Baron passes away at 65

RP to roll out red carpet in superhero welcome

PREPARATIONS TO GIVE MANNY PACQUIAO A superhero's welcome are under way and he will never know what hit him on his return probably on Friday.

"He's an authentic hero," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye. "We cannot honor him enough but we will try to give him the recognition that is appropriate."

A red carpet will be laid out when Pacquiao steps off the plane—among the prepara-

RP TO ROLL/ A14

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
website: www.inq7.net
PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Tuesday, January 24, 2006 ★★ 5 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 47 P18

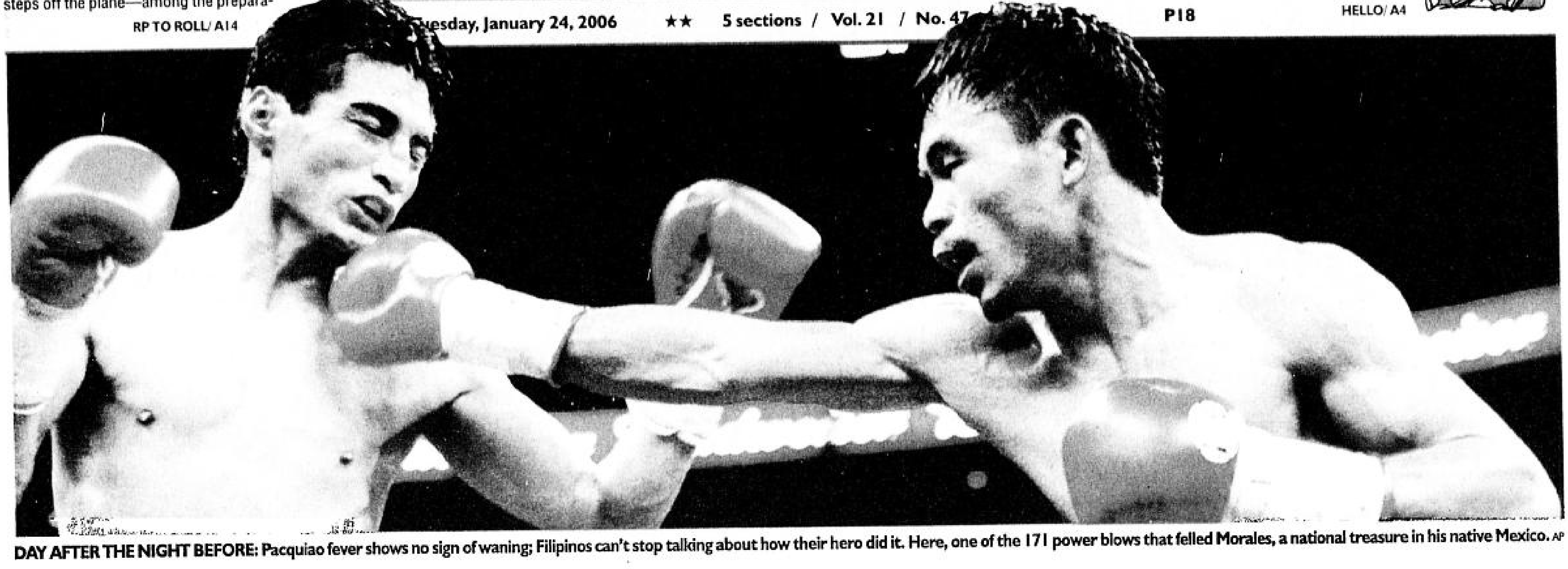
'Hello Manny' sounds familiar; could help 'Hello Garci' probe

By Norman Bordadora

ANOTHER LAPSE IN JUDGMENT NA NAMAN!

OPPOSITION CONGRESSMEN were still scratching their heads a day after they heard President Macapagal-Arroyo's voice on speaker phone in her brief nationally televised call to

HELLO/ A4



DAY AFTER THE NIGHT BEFORE: Pacquiao fever shows no sign of waning; Filipinos can't stop talking about how their hero did it. Here, one of the 171 power blows that felled Morales, a national treasure in his native Mexico. AP

₱27B of seized Marcos funds gone, Senate told

171 power blows made the difference

By Recah Trinidad

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA—MANNY "Pacman" Pacquiao may have indeed undergone a swift transformation from a fighter into a well-rounded boxer, as evidenced by the balanced game he flashed in stopping Erik Morales.

But a review of the punches thrown and landed in The Battle at the Thomas & Mack Center on Saturday indicated that power, not improved skills, provided the big difference in the main contest.

Pacquiao prevailed because he landed more power punches, some of them ax-like digs to the rib cage that ultimately softened and toppled Morales for the first time in his great career.

Pacquiao threw a total of 537 power blows, landing 171.

Morales threw 321 big punches and landed a total of 107.

The difference in percentage may not be too big, but in the case of Pacquiao, who packs power way, way above his natural weight, one big blow could end it all for his opponent.

"Pacquiao is a rarity; he is a super featherweight who punches stronger than a regular welterweight," explained Games and Amusements Board boxing division chief Noli Flores, who witnessed The Battle from ringside here.

In fact, Pacquiao was outscored by Morales on the percentage of jabs thrown and landed.

Pacquiao threw 258 jabs and connected only 25 times.

Morales threw 323 jabs and landed a total of 77.

That's a huge difference that could've changed the overall re-

171 POWER/ A14

VINCENT CABREZA/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

SPLENDOR IN THE SUN. Like the whole country, Cordillerans were glued to The Battle on Sunday. In Baguio City, residents without cable took to the streets in droves to watch a widescreen TV set up by ABS-CBN.

Budget dep't says only P5B remains for CARP

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE P27 BILLION FOR LAND REFORM DRAWN from the P35 billion in Swiss bank deposits of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos, which the government got hold of in 2004, is now "practically gone," a budget official told the Senate yesterday.

Nora C. Oliveros, a director at the Department of Budget and Management, said only P5 billion remained of the confiscated Marcos wealth after P8 billion was set aside to compensate the human rights victims of martial law.

However, the remaining P5 billion will be used by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) this year.

"(It's) practically gone, your honor," Oliveros said during the Senate hearing on the DBM budget.

Senate President Franklin Drilon ordered DBM officials to explain why and how the Marcos funds were used, including P4.9 billion that was released right before the May 2004 elections.

He surmised that part of it went to the P728-million fertilizer fund that

P27B FROM MARCOS/ A4

Daet lotto winner richer than Pacquiao

By Joanna P. Los Baños
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau
and DJ Yap
in Manila

A POOR BICOLANO DID NOT HAVE TO travel miles to Las Vegas and trade punches with a tough Mexican to win more than P100 million—tax-free.

In fact, Filipino boxing hero Manny Pacquiao's earnings of P105 million, minus taxes and other fees, may seem small compared to the winnings of this bettor from Camarines Norte who emerged as the lone jackpot winner of the Superlotto 6/49 on Sunday.

His total winnings: P150,478,099.20.

It was the biggest pot ever won by a single bettor since the beginning of the lotto draw in 1995, according to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO).

The unnamed ticket buyer from Daet bet on the winning combination

DAET/ A4

New symptoms of military unrest emerging

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

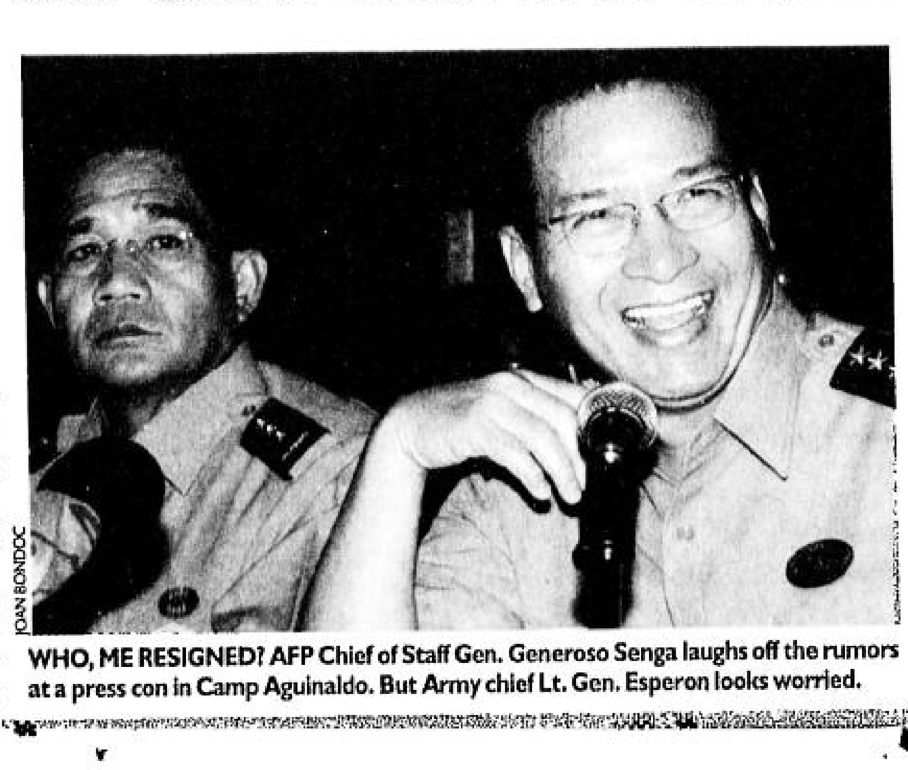
MILITARY UNREST HAS A NASTY HABIT OF popping up at a period when the constitutional government the Armed Forces of the Philippines has sworn to defend is in the midst of a grave political crisis and faces a number of challenges from its enemies while its public satisfaction rating is at rock bottom.

Last weekend, the government marked its fifth year in power as the capital was swept by rumors of coup plots.

The coup jitters were the latest wave to hit the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo following the disputed May 2004 elec-

NEW SYMPTOMS/ A14

AFP show of force to counter coup talk



JOAN BONDOC

WHO, ME RESIGNED? AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga laughs off the rumors at a press con in Camp Aguinaldo. But Army chief Lt. Gen. Esperon looks worried.

By Dona Pazzibugan and Armand Nocum

IN A RARE SHOW OF FORCE, THE country's four highest military officers yesterday appeared in public together to declare their support for the Commander in Chief, President Macapagal-Arroyo, in the face of coup rumors.

Seated alongside the heads of the Army, the Air Force and the Navy, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga admitted "there is a threat" against the administration but later tried to wiggle around it by adding that he could not say if the threat was serious.

Ironically, it was Ms Arroyo's own Justice Secretary, Raul Gonzalez, who helped feed the ru-

AFP SHOW/ A14

COMING HOME

The best and worst of times

By Fernando del Mundo

(Second of three parts)

Editor's Note: The writer is a former foreign correspondent, ex-Philippine bureau chief of United Press International and former head of the Mass Information Unit in the office of the Geneva-based United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, traveling to the world's trouble spots. He left the Philippines in 1991 and returned last year, subsequently joining the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

WHAT SUPPORTS THIS OSTENSIBLY sybaritic Filipino lifestyle?

Sen. Manuel Villar says there exists in the country today a strong middle class representing "probably around 5 percent of the population."

"They're the ones you see in the shopping malls," says Villar, referring to families of the overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) numbering in the millions.

They regularly send hard currency to their homeland—nearly $1 billion a month, not counting the amount sent through unofficial channels by Filipino TNTs (*Tago ng*

THE BEST/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2006

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: At 2 p.m. yesterday, tropical depression Agaton was estimated at 210 km east of Catarman, Northern Samar with maximum sustained winds of 55 kph near the center. It was forecast to move west northwest at 13 kph. Diffused tail-end of cold front affects Northeastern Luzon.

COMPILED BY CYRIL L BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/01/24/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Second FrontPage

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Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Only in RP: 'Desperate Japanese'

THEY COME TO THE PHILIPPINES HOPING TO start a new life, often with a new young wife.

But most of these middle-aged Japanese men end up without money, abandoned by their Filipino wives and with nowhere to go.

The number of these men, known as "Desperate Japanese" among the local Japanese community, has increased in recent years, an embassy official said.

"One would show up at least every two days," said a consular official with the Japanese Embassy in Manila.

Married men

He said most of them were married men who had fallen in love with Filipino bar hostesses in Japan and had followed the women to the Philippines, leaving their families behind.

"They would seek early retirement so they can come here chasing the women. They would start living together, then buy a house, then a car," said the official who declined to be named.

The lower cost of living in the Philippines allows them to enjoy a good life initially, but unable to speak English or the local language, the men, mostly in their 50s, cannot find work and use up all of their money in a year or two, he said.

'Self-destruction'

With the money gone, their Filipino wives usually leave them, and shunned by their families in Japan, the men come knocking on the embassy's door for help.

"It's a case of self-destruction," said the official.

Some of the men also turn to the local Japanese community for help, said Masahiko Ieda, 67, a senior member of the Japanese Association in Manila.

"Many have even sold their passports and although they don't go begging in the streets, they don't have the money to carry on a living," he said, adding one followed him into a Manila restaurant asking for money.

Nearly 80,000 Filipino women go to Japan every year on entertainment visas, and most end up working as bar hostesses, although the number is expected to fall after Tokyo tightened visa rules last year.

The 67-year-old Ieda, who has lived in the Philippines for 45 years, said it is only recently that these troubled men have shown up in such numbers.

Cases rising

The consular official said the embassy had dealt with less than 50 "Desperate Japanese" until 2000, arranging their return to Japan, but the cases had risen in the last five years with the number rising to around 180.

Toru Nishimoto, a Japanese Christian priest in Manila who has helped some of the men, said in addition to those who came after the Filipino women, there are some who come to the country hoping to make it big in business and end up penniless.

The Japanese community in the Philippines is the sixth largest in Asia with around 12,500 people, mostly expatriates working for major corporations, but the number could double if unregistered Japanese were included, the Japanese official said.

Midlife crisis

He said "Desperate Japanese" as a phenomenon was almost exclusive to the Philippines, adding that the "Philippine pubs," found even in rural Japan, provided comfort to the men facing a midlife crisis.

"These men, they may have been victims of their company's restructuring and may have felt isolated at home," he said.

"So they may have been heartened by a young Filipina at the local hostess bar and decided: 'What the heck, I'll go to the Philippines.'" *Reuters*

Top PNP prober posed as GRO to nail recruiter

CIDG top investigator PO2 Lucita Apurillo is also trained to handle cases of rape, child battery and abuse. JOAN BONDOC

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE TOP INVESTIGATOR OF the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group is a woman.

PO2 Lucita Apurillo, who once went undercover as an applicant for a guest relations job to nail an illegal recruiter, has been named top investigator of the CIDG for 2005.

The citation is a major feat for Apurillo, and a big step for the police, considering that women make up 7 percent of the 118,000-strong organization. There are no women heads in the major departments in the Philippine National Police, nor are there women in the Command Group, the highest policy-making body of the police.

Apurillo, mother of two, was cited as top investigator among half-a-dozen or so CIDG investigators after a nationwide screening of candidates. A committee looked into her records, evaluated her performance, and grilled her in an interview, officials said.

The CIDG celebrated its 53rd founding anniversary yesterday and also awarded five other officers—Supt. Nelson Yabut, Chief Inspector Prudencio Enojo Jr., SPO4 Pedro Barsana, PO3 Augusto Gacayan and SPO1 Myra—as top policemen.

Region 2 and 11 also won as best CIDG regional offices for 2005; the Pangasinan-CIDG as best provincial unit; and the Anti-Fraud and Commercial Crimes Division as best operating division.

Apurillo's achievement proves that the CIDG—the primary investigative arm of the police—does not discriminate against women, according to Chief Supt. Pedro Tango, the unit's officer in charge.

Asked what he thought about Apurillo's achievement, Tango said: "That we do not have one category for women and another category for men as investigators, proves that we do not discriminate against women. It does not matter whether you are a man or a woman, [what matters is] you do your job well."

Tango's deputy, Senior Supt. Raul Castaneda, added: "To say that the police is a man's world is a thing of the past."

Dignified

Apurillo, 31, joined the police force after a short stint with a phone company five years ago. It was an unlikely choice, especially since her degree was in agricultural technology.

Being a police officer had always appealed to her, plus, the uniform looked dignified, she said.

Apurillo applied to the force, was accepted, and like most women officers, landed at the Women's Concerns and Children's Desk. (Majority of women officers are, in fact, confined to the WCCDs and to health service units—an indication that the police have not completely accepted the fact that women are just as capable as the men in holding key positions).

Undercover

Apurillo also took courses in law and planned to continue her studies next semester. She is currently assigned to the CIDG-WCCD office.

In 2003, Apurillo and two women officers went undercover to bust an illegal recruiter in Manila.

The CIDG and the Presidential Center for Transnational Crime had heard of the agency's illegal activities and sought to entrap its runner, who had been sending women to Malaysia as guest relations officers.

At least one girl became pregnant and had been sent back to the Philippines, according to Apurillo.

Busted

All the agency asked from the undercover lady officers—who were required to dance—were photos and P10,000 in cash. They were told they would be sent to Malaysia the very next day via the "back door."

"We caught her (the illegal recruiter) in the act and busted her. She was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment," Apurillo said.

Police chief Director General Arturo Lomibao said the police put "a very high premium on addressing crimes against women and children" and had made moves to enhance the services of the WCCD.

Lomibao could begin by hiring more women in the force.

Opening up

Last year, a study funded by the United Nations Development Program found that not all of the WCCD desks were manned by women, especially at night—which in effect, defeats their purpose.

Trained to handle cases of rape, wife battery, and other forms of abuse, Apurillo said the hardest part of the job is getting a victim, especially a child, to talk about her ordeal.

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DFA ordered to save Pinay sentenced to die in Kuwait

By Volt Contreras

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS ORdered the Department of Foreign Affairs to do everything they can to save a Filipina teacher set to hang in Kuwait for killing her boss there.

"The president has instructed the DFA to look into the plight of Marilou Ranario, and to exhaust all diplomatic and legal means to save her life," Malacañang spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said yesterday.

The Philippine Embassy in Kuwait was negotiating with the family of the victim to accept blood money in return for Ranario's life, while a separate appeal before the court was being pursued by her two Kuwaiti defense lawyers hired by the mission, the DFA said yesterday.

Ranario, 33, a native of Surigao del Sur, was found guilty on Sept. 28 last year of stabbing her employer to death. The DFA did not provide details of the stabbing incident, but reports said she retaliated for the "insults" hurled on "her people."

The court has yet to set a date of execution by hanging (not beheading, as earlier reported in a local paper).

DFA spokesman Gilberto Asuque explained that the victim's family must first be persuaded to "forgive" the doomed Filipino and sign a letter of forgiveness, before a specific amount of blood money is offered.

The money will then be sourced from private donors, not from government coffers, Asuque said.

Since her detention, Ranario has been visited in her cell every month by embassy officials and appeared to have been "treated well" in prison, the department added.

Her own family members, however, particularly her father, Rosario, have been unable to see her after the Kuwaiti Embassy in Manila denied him a visa.

The DFA has asked the mission to reconsider his visa application on "humanitarian grounds."

Ranario's predicament was made public only after her father complained to the press that Filipino diplomats had failed to help his daughter.

Some seven million Filipinos work abroad, sending the equivalent of more than 10 percent of the country's economic output to their families back home. *With AFP*

GMA seeks help from PR folk

By Christine O. Avendaño

SAYING THAT PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo would continue to take a beating in the media "for as long as the atmosphere remains politically charged," her spokesperson appealed yesterday to public relations practitioners for help.

"I ask for your help, not because I speak for the President, but because it is time for us all to do what we can, in our respective spheres of influence, for the country we love and we must build together," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye at the Philippine Public Relations Summit III held at the Shangri-La Hotel in Makati City.

Bunye said Ms Arroyo, whose administration continues to be buffeted by allegations of electoral fraud, has "suffered tremendously in terms of media coverage and commentary."

"...(F)or as long as the atmosphere remains politically charged, there will be surely no respite from the many PR challenges that we face," said Bunye.

He told the PR practitioners he was there "to enlist your help."

The PR summit series is a creation of Romeo Virtucio, chair of Virtucio Public Relations and Context Communications International. Other speakers were Yoly Ong of Campaigns and Grey, Charlie Agatep of Agatep Associates and Tessa Jazmines of Lark&Asset PR.

Bunye lamented that the country continued to be bombarded by negative news, and these included the leveling of "serious allegations" that were "even without basis."

"Worse, even if these allegations were obviously the concoctions of persons motivated only by self-interest, our *chismis* (gossip)-driven culture unfortunately laps it up as the gospel truth," he said.

President Arroyo has denied the allegations she had asked a former election official to ensure a million-vote margin for her over her closest 2004 election rival, the late actor Fernando Poe Jr.

Council of State meeting up today

By Christine O. Avendaño and Philip C. Tubeza

TODAY'S COUNCIL OF STATE meeting would be the first opportunity for some senators and congressmen to sit down together with various sectors to discuss the administration's determined push to amend the Charter.

But while administration officials expect the meeting to end in a "meeting of minds" on how to run the country smoothly, maverick administration Sen. Joker Arroyo, like many in the political opposition who are staying away, dismissed the entire exercise as just "all for show."

Former President Fidel Ramos, Speaker Jose de Venecia and six senators are among those who have confirmed their attendance.

Except for Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan, who has called for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo and is attending in the spirit of constructive debate, the other five senators are known to be friendly to the administration. These are Senators Juan Flavier, Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Ralph Recto, Richard Gordon and Edgardo Angara.

Notably absent from the meeting would be former President Joseph Estrada, who is on trial on plunder charges, and former President Corazon Aquino, who has said she would not attend lest her presence be misconstrued as support for a President she believes is not fit to rule. Senate President Franklin Drilon is also staying away.

Malacañang said about 75 people would attend the meeting. Apart from members of the Cabinet and administration supporters in Congress, the delegates include representatives of labor, business, transport , women, youth organizations and other groups such as the National Movement for Free Elections.

Also attending would be former Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., Commission on Elections chair Benjamin Abalos, Consultative Commission chair Jose Abueva, Christian Monsod of the Bishops-Businessmen's Conference, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza for the Liberal Party, Frisco San Juan for the National People's Coalition, Wahid Mutilan of the Ulama League of the Philippines, Paulo Benigno Aquino IV representing the youth, and Donald Dee and Sergio Luis Ortiz for business.

A Palace source El Shaddai leader Brother Mike Velarde and Iglesia ni Cristo leader Eraño Manalo had been invited, but as of press time yesterday, Velarde had yet to reply while Manalo sent word he could not attend.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita dismissed claims that the meeting would not amount to anything given that not all sectors were represented.

"It's not our objective to see everyone, but what is important is we have a meeting of minds regardless of political affiliation," he said in an interview over RMN radio. "And we hope that we set aside the political bickering and instead, find out how we can help in ensuring the country runs smoothly."

AFP 'Hello Garci' report out but top brass silent

By Dona Pazzibugan

THREE MONTHS PAST ITS original deadline, a military fact-finding body finally submitted its report on the alleged involvement of top generals in the "Hello Garci" scandal last Friday.

But the head of the fact-finding board, Navy chief Vice Admiral Mateo Mayuga refused to disclose their recommendations to the press.

Mayuga, who was appointed Navy chief last Dec. 8, yesterday said he submitted their report to Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga last Friday.

"All I can say is that we have investigated about 80 officers. It is now for the Chief of Staff (Senga) to decide on the recommendations. Everything is tentative until the Chief of Staff has decided," Mayuga told reporters in Camp Aguinaldo yesterday.

Senga said he had not read Mayuga's report, saying he was in Cebu most of the day Saturday for the turnover of command at the AFP Central Command.

"Give us time," he said when asked when he would act on the board's recommendations.

Four ranking generals were implicated in the alleged conspiracy to rig the May 2004 presidential elections for President Macapagal-Arroyo, namely Army Chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, newly-appointed Southern Command chief Maj. Gen. Gabriel Habacon, retired Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko, and retired Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani.

Iraq, RP most dangerous areas for journalists

SYDNEY – A TOTAL OF 150 journalists were killed in 2005 – the worst year on record – with Iraq and the Philippines topping the list of the world's most dangerous countries, a media watchdog said Monday.

The journalists died in wars, assassinations, natural disasters and accidents in an increasingly dangerous profession, the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) said in its annual report.

A total of 36 journalists were killed in the Asia-Pacific region, with the Philippines again accounting for the most deaths, with 10 killed.

"The Philippines, Pakistan, India and Bangladesh remained the most dangerous areas, but a worrying trend of violence has also emerged in Thailand," the IFJ said.

Of the total, 89 were killed "in the line of duty" – many singled out for assassination by political extremists, paramilitary forces or criminals, the report said.

The other 61 died when disaster struck while on assignment – 48 of them in a military plane crash in Iran.

War-torn Iraq accounted for the death of 35 journalists out of a total of 38 killed in the Middle East, making the region "by far the most deadly beat for reporters in the field," said IFJ general secretary Aidan White.

"Most of those who died were local, many of them working for international media outlets in Iraq where the streets are too dangerous for foreigners to tread," White said.

US troops were involved in the death of five journalists, "bringing to 18 the number of reporters and media staff killed at the hands of occupation soldiers since 2003," the report said.

The IFJ has called for independent investigations into these deaths to eliminate suspicion that they were deliberately targeted.

"The majority of victims in the Asia-Pacific region were not killed in crossfire between warring groups, or by accident while they were reporting in conflict areas.

"Most of (them) were directly targeted and killed because they were journalists," the IFJ said. *AFP*

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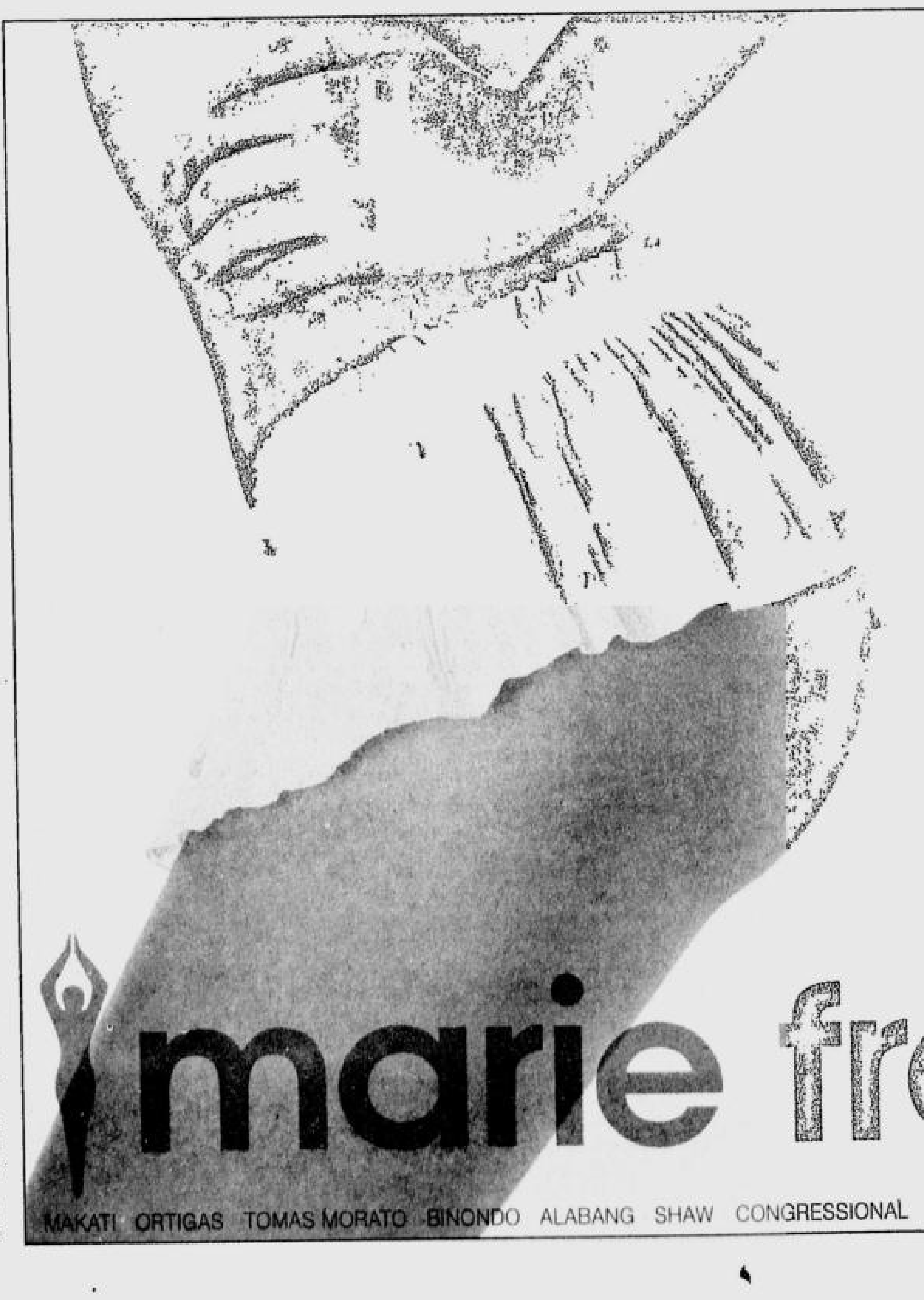

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₱27B of seized Marcos funds gone, Senate told

From page A1

the Department of Agriculture released just before the elections allegedly to help finance the campaign of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"So, the Marcos wealth is all finished. The P35 billion is all spent because you need P16 billion this year (for CARP) and you have only P5 billion left. So, the P35 billion is all spent," Drilon said.

"Yes, Your Honor," Oliveros said.

Budget Secretary Romulo Neri said a total of $718.76 million (equivalent to P35 billion) was turned over to the national government after the Supreme Court ruled in November 2003 that the Marcos funds stashed in Swiss banks were ill-gotten. *(See "In the Know," Page A4.)*

Oliveros said P13.11 billion was allotted for CARP in 2004 and another P8.9 billion was released in 2005, leaving a balance of about P13 billion for this year.

But with P8 billion set aside for the human rights victims, the government is left with P5 billion, which falls short of the P16-billion CARP budget for this year.

"So, out of the P35 billion originally allocated, only P5 billion is left net of human rights compensation allotment. Is that correct?" Drilon said.

"It's correct, Your Honor," Oliveros said.

Bills to compensate victims

The government, however, cannot compensate the human rights victims until Congress passes a law allowing the use of the proceeds from ill-gotten wealth cases for purposes other than land reform.

Under Republic Act No. 6657, or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL) of 1988, all ill-gotten wealth recovered from the Marcoses and their cronies should be spent on land reform.

Bills seeking to indemnify the human rights victims have been stuck in the House of Representatives whose members include Marcos daughter Imee and his supporters.

The government has recovered a total of P60.8 billion in ill-gotten wealth from the Marcoses and their cronies since 1986, Nick Suarez, information officer of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, said yesterday.

For locally funded products

Drilon ordered the DBM officials to explain the P4.91 billion released from the Marcos funds on April 26, 2004, saying that part of it might have been used for "fertilizers."

Neri said the P4.91 billion was released to the Department of Agrarian Reform, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Land Registration Authority and the Land Bank of the Philippines, "among others."

A total of P544 million went to the DAR's hybrid rice program while P475 million was allotted to "locally funded projects."

"These (locally funded projects) are various projects implemented by the Department of Agrarian Reform. Most of these are farm-to-market roads," Oliveros said.

"Not fertilizer? Or does it include fertilizer?" Drilon asked.

"To my knowledge, Your Honor," Oliveros said, "it does not include fertilizer."

P2.6 billion for salaries

Drilon also questioned the propriety of the release of P2.6 billion for "operational support," adding that using Marcos funds to pay for government salaries might be improper.

"Is this a proper disbursement? Marcos wealth, which is designed for CARP, used to pay for the salaries of the bureaucracy? Is that justified?" Drilon said.

Oliveros defended the allotment, saying that "operational support" included administrative expenses in CARP operations.

"These are personnel, Your Honor, that are working for CARP," she said.

But Drilon retorted: "My dear Director Oliveros, the whole DAR would be composed of personnel working for CARP. Don't try to butter this thing up."

Oliveros explained that there were "two classifications" for CARP personnel—those who received their salaries from the government's general fund and those who drew their wages from the Marcos ill-gotten wealth.

10,000 personnel

"Your Honor, these were the personnel who were hired when the agrarian reform program was started and implemented by the national government," she said.

"There were about 10,000 CARP personnel who were hired solely for the Agrarian Reform Program, and they are the ones whose salaries and wages are charged against (the Marcos funds)," she said.

Drilon said he would "double-check" whether the DBM was authorized to spend the Marcos funds for "operation expenses."

"No wonder you perpetually had this program at hand because your 10,000 personnel depended on it. The program is perpetual because the moment you complete the program, you abolish [the] DAR," he said.

IN THE KNOW

Marcos' Swiss deposits: From freeze to release

IN AN UNPRECEDENTED MOVE, THE FEDERAL Council of Switzerland ordered on March 24, 1986, a freeze on the secret accounts of exiled President Ferdinand Marcos in different Swiss banks.

A month later, the Presidential Commission on Good Government requested assistance from the Swiss Federal Police Department to freeze the deposits. The PCGG, then headed by Jovito Salonga, was created in February 1986 by Executive Order No. 1 to recover the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses.

In December 1990, the Swiss Federal Supreme Court said the $356 million (about $658 million as of January 2002) would be turned over to the Philippines only after a Philippine criminal court had issued a verdict on the matter. It also gave the condition that the Philippines should open criminal proceedings against the Marcoses within a year.

A year later, the Philippine government filed a civil case before the Sandiganbayan for the forfeiture of the accounts. On Aug. 10, 1995, it also requested the district attorney in Zurich for the immediate transfer of the deposits to an escrow account. The request was granted. Marcos' heirs appealed the decision to the Swiss Federal Supreme Court.

Four days later, the PCGG and the Philippine National Bank signed an escrow agreement, which covered at least 12 Swiss dummy foundations.

On Dec. 10, 1997, the Swiss Federal Supreme Court upheld the August 1995 decision and ordered the return to the Philippines of Marcos deposits in Credit Suisse and Swiss Bank Corp. The court also said the money must be placed in an escrow account until a final decision was made by a Philippine court. The seized assets were transferred to PNB escrow accounts between April and July 1998.

The forfeiture of the escrow accounts in favor of the government was ordered by the Sandiganbayan on Sept. 19, 2000. Imelda Marcos moved for reconsideration a week later. On Jan. 31, 2002, the Sandiganbayan reversed its decision, ruling that there was no proof that the money in escrow was really owned by the Marcoses. The PCGG challenged this decision before the Supreme Court a month later.

With one abstention, the Supreme Court voted 12-0 on July 15, 2003 to declare ill-gotten the money deposited in escrow. On Aug. 5, 2003, Imelda and Irene Marcos filed motions for reconsideration. That same day, the justice ministry of Switzerland approved the turnover to the Philippine government of the $683 million deposited in a PNB frozen account.

On Nov. 18, 2003, Supreme Court justices unanimously denied with finality the Marcoses' motions. Despite this, Imelda filed a second motion for reconsideration a month later. Finally, on Jan. 13, 2004, the Supreme Court released a resolution, which denied her motion and ordered the Sandiganbayan to immediately forfeit the money in favor of the government. *Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research*

The best and worst of times

From page A1

Tago or illegals).

The remittances prop up the consumer-driven economy and largely make up what government propagandists call "foreign investments."

OFWs account for the "boom" in the real estate sector, says Villar. They are buying lots and houses and introducing a relatively new phenomenon in the country called "condo living."

Drive outside Manila and you'd easily spot Swiss-style chalets standing in splendor in the midst of rice fields and impoverished villages.

In the streets, there are more shiny new cars—so unlike those uniformly dilapidated vehicles plying the streets of Kissidougou in Guinea.

There's a new king of the road—the ubiquitous tricycles skittering around, even on highways and national roads, putting life and limb at risk, emitting toxic fumes that foul the air.

Evidence of progress

As a sign on one tricycle put it, the motorized contraption is a "drop of Saudi oil," meaning the sweat off a Filipino back in the Arabian Peninsula.

There's evidence of progress, even in the slums of Tondo. Television aerials swinging in the wind atop makeshift houses are one indication of prosperity.

A drive along North Bay Boulevard reveals shantytowns similar to those you find in Sierra Leone and Liberia. These two countries have been ravaged by war and their situation is understandable.

Neglect of Tondo—as well as other slum areas in the metropolis—is inexcusable.

Complaints of rampant criminality in the Tondo area are rife, as it was before. One shipping executive says trucks laden with goods shipped at the harbor and are stuck in traffic jams are normally open season for unemployed youths. He says sacks of rice are ripped apart and youths help themselves to the loot.

Ample food

I saw a man accidentally sideswiped by a boy pedaling a tricycle in Tondo's Plaza Moriones. The man picked up a rock and tried to smash the boy's face with it. No one had dared intervene, until a policeman came. At least there was one around. I call that progress.

Malnutrition obviously abounds. But there's ample food around, as far as I can tell. What I've seen here doesn't compare with the situation in many places in Africa, where there's very little food, water, shelter or jobs to be found.

I stayed inside a tent in eastern Chad along the border with Darfur, where it was sizzling hot during the day and freezing at night. I was lucky to have a jacket and blanket. Lots more people there weren't as fortunate.

Those scores of people sleeping on sidewalks, benches and carts around Santa Cruz church—now a recurrent sorry sight in downtown Manila—are still luckier than the homeless in Chad, or the panhandlers in Washington DC in December. They don't have to contend with winter chill.

In the Balkans, people in rural villages just hibernate during the icy months. Many have relatives working in Western Europe, who regularly send them money to tide them over.

At the height of the civil war in the Serbian province of Kosovo in 1998, I came across an ethnic Albanian man on a hill just outside the capital, Pristina. Tears rolled down his cheeks as he recounted how a brother working in Germany had sent him money so he could buy and store food for the winter.

The food had just been blown away by Serbian guns and his house was in flames. He wept that while he could rebuild the house, he wasn't sure he could replenish the burned wheat flour.

As in Eastern Europe, immigrant workers' money is one vital lifeline to many families in the Philippines.

Downside

There's a downside to the OFW story.

A 44-year-old "janitor-bagger" at an upscale supermarket says his wife, who has been working as a midwife over the past six years in Riyadh in Saudi Arabia, is splitting with him. His 9-year-old daughter now lives with his in-laws, at his wife's behest.

A holder of an associate in marine transport degree, he had wanted to become a merchant seaman but had found himself instead in the supermarket where he has been working for the last 21 years.

It doesn't seem to him a dead end. He earns P300 a day and gets tips of about P300 for helping customers stuff their groceries in plastic bags which he helps carry to their cars.

"Life's not too bad. After my eight-hour shift, I go home and watch cable TV," he says.

Tawdry makeup

Just having a job and enough money at the end of the day is satisfaction enough for him, as it is, I assume, for everyone in a tight job market.

As new golden ghettoes spring up in the suburbs, the city of Manila inexorably goes down the drain. Efforts to give it a facelift are nothing more than a tawdry makeup.

Driving along Roxas Boulevard, the spectacular sunset view on Manila Bay is gone, blotted out by clapboard eateries that dot the much-ballyhooed baywalk of Mayor Lito Atienza.

Tough. The bayfront area had all the makings of promenades similar to those in Cannes and Nice along the Mediterranean in the south of France.

At night, some parts of Manila are very well lit, like a burlesque stage at curtain call when all the lights are on. But most streets are dim, unkempt and rundown. Large parts of the city are disconcerting and pathetic. *(Tomorrow: Streets a window to Filipino soul)*

'Hello Manny' . . .

From page A1

congratulate Manny Pacquiao on his victory on Sunday against Erik Morales.

The way Ms Arroyo said "Hello Manny" sounded suspiciously similar to the female voice that famously called out "Hello Garci," the lawmakers said.

"There seemed a similarity in the voice and in the tone," said House Minority Leader Francis Escudero.

Ms Arroyo has apologized for talking with an election official but has yet to acknowledge that hers was the voice caught on wiretapped conversations with Virgilio Garcillano that nearly unseated her last year.

Opposition politicians say the wiretap was evidence she cheated in the May 2004 presidential election—a charge Ms Arroyo has denied.

Uncannily familiar voice

"It sounded uncannily like that of the "Hello Garci" tapes. It could help in the authentication of the voices," Remulla said in a text message to the INQUIRER.

Remulla said it might be a good idea to compare "Hello Manny" with "Hello Garci."

The House inquiry into the alleged wiretaps resumes tomorrow.

Asked about the opposition suspicions, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said:

"It is very pathetic to inject politics every time things like this happen when everybody should be rejoicing because a Filipino has achieved something very spectacular, which should make everyone of us proud."

Cynicism

"That is the problem with our people," he said, "the cynicism and at the same time the prejudices."

"The President merely called to congratulate him and she was hit for that," said Gonzalez, smarting from the criticism that the President and her husband were riding on the Pacquiao victory.

The appearance of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo at ringside and the President's subsequent call to Pacquiao after he floored Morales elicited jeers from people watching the fight on television and movie theaters in Metro Manila.

Gonzalez said the Mexicans were different. They were solidly behind the beaten Erik Morales.

"Why should we not do it? Why should we not celebrate? I'm sure that had the President said nothing about it, she would have been criticized also," he said.

Director General Arturo Lomibao, chief of the Philippine National Police, said Pacquiao's win deserved a "ceasefire" on the political front.

"Let's first celebrate," he said.

But Sen. Rodolfo Biazon cautioned the boxer against allowing himself to be used by politicians to mouth propaganda.

"He should not issue statements and should not allow himself to be used by politicians," he said.

The House opposition also turned down Pacquiao's appeal for unity.

No to President

Escudero said that while it was every Filipino's wish for unity and reconciliation to reign in the country, the opposition was not inclined to rally behind a government faced with serious questions of legitimacy.

"It is the wish of every Filipino for the country to be united. But it would not be right to be united behind something that is wrong," Escudero said.

With reports from Norman Bordadora and Luige A. del Puerto

Daet lotto winner richer than Pacquiao

From page A1

18-11-41-43-6-47, the PCSO said.

A man and his wife in Barangay Pamorangon in Daet reportedly won the jackpot prize, according to a businessman in the capital town.

The businessman quoted a police officer from Daet—who was assigned to nearby Basud town—as saying that the husband, about 50 years old, went hysterical and was screaming as he waved the winning ticket.

Just keep quiet

The wife, about 35 years old, however, immediately calmed him down and told him to keep quiet.

Later, the husband denied that he won the lotto jackpot prize.

The couple bought the winning ticket at Botica Immaculada Concepcion, one of the two PCSO lotto outlets in Camarines Norte. It is located in the town's public market.

The outlet is owned by Sonia Leaño, station manager of local radio station dzSL, who will be entitled to up to about P500,000, depending on the computations of the PCSO main office, according to Estrella Abasolo, PCSO Daet accountant.

Abasolo said she had no idea who the winner was. She said she only learned that there was a winner from Daet.

It was the first time that someone in Daet won the jackpot, according to the PCSO accountant.

Like their counterparts in Camarines Norte, personnel in the PCSO national office still did not know who the winner was.

Where bet was placed

"So far, no one has come forward to claim the prize (as of 3 p.m. yesterday)," said Susana Alcala of the PCSO internal audit division.

The PCSO could only identify where the bet was placed—Christine Leaño lotto outlet at Dolor Building on J. Lukban Street, a staff member at the PCSO central operations office said.

"The winner has already gotten in touch with the PCSO provincial district in Bicol, but we don't know when [the winner] will claim the check," said the staff member, who asked not to be named.

Even information about the winner's gender was not available, she added. "We really don't go out of our way to ask for details about them to protect their identity," the staff member said.

"They simply have to present their winning ticket for verification, then they will be given the check. It's up to them whether to deposit the money in the bank or withdraw everything," Alcala said.

The PCSO chair advised the still unidentified winner to keep the money in a bank.

"He or she should immediately put it in a bank while he or she is thinking about what to do with the money," PCSO Chair Rosario Uriarte said. "That way, it is already earning [interest] even as he or she is thinking how to use it."

The lone winner of the biggest lotto pot has a whole year to claim his or her prize, she said.

The second biggest pot was the P147 million in the Megalotto draw of March 31, 1999, while the third biggest was the P145 million in the Superlotto draw of July 25, 2002, according to the PCSO.

The biggest jackpot ever was the P202 million three years ago, but it was won by six people who shared the prize.

In Superlotto 6/49, one picks six numbers from 1 to 49 on a ticket worth P10. One wins if he or she matches all six, or any three, four, or five numbers of the winning six-number combination.

Super-queue at lotto stalls

The win dashed the hopes of thousands of other Filipinos, young and old, who queued at lottery outlets around the country on Sunday, clutching what they hoped to be their ticket to fortune.

Backpack-toting students, mothers with toddlers, and even mall security guards lined up for hours at the lottery stall inside SM North Edsa in Quezon City to pay for their tickets.

Students in nursing uniforms, bespectacled businessmen, teenagers in street clothes, and couples holding hands also lined up.

A ticket seller said the queue most likely reached 10,000, as of 7:30 p.m., at which time the crowd had not yet thinned. (The lotto closed at 8 p.m., in time for the 9 p.m. draw.)

Many bought only a handful of tickets, but some spent as much as P10,000 just to increase their chances of winning, said Sherrylyn Dillena of Lucky Circle Corp.

The lines had been long for the past three weeks, but Sunday's was the longest yet, she said. *With a report from Luige A. del Puerto*

Correction

IN THE JAN. 22 ISSUE, A front-page story—"Palace security tightened"—wrongly attributed to Sen. Mar Roxas the following quote: "The statement was uncalled for. The use of force by a state presupposes that there is a moral basis to resort to such violence. Malacañang must exercise extreme caution as it contemplates the use of such force. With waning public support, it may find itself in a situation it may be unable to control, which in turn, may result in its collapse." The statement was made by Sen. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan.

* * *

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P13.1 BILLION

Bill giving gov't men pay raises certified as urgent

By Norman Bordadora

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS certified as urgent a special appropriations bill allocating P13.1 billion for salary she has promised to give the country's one million national government workers this year, House Speaker Jose de Venecia said yesterday.

"The bill was deemed urgent so (government employees) can receive immediately their salary increase even before the General Appropriations Act is passed," De Venecia said at a news conference.

Nonetheless, De Venecia tried to assure the public that the country will not be forced to operate on a re-enacted 2005 budget in light of Congress' failure thus far to pass the proposed P1.053 trillion national budget for 2006.

"Rest assured, the (budget) will be approved in the next few weeks," he said, brushing aside fears that the budget will not be approved in time.

The special appropriations bill was filed last week by Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr., following Ms Arroyo's announcement that she would ask Congress to pass a special law providing for the salary increases.

"National government employees have bewailed the failure of the national government to provide salary increase for the past five years," Andaya said in an explanatory note to House Bill No. 5013.

"They are eagerly looking forward to the proposed compensation adjustment for 2006 and would be extremely disappointed if the passage of the (budget) is much delayed," Andaya added.

Andaya did not say when he expected the bill to become law, but Ms Arroyo said at a Liberal Party rally at Plaza Miranda last Thursday that she would push Congress hard so that the increases could be given by Valentine's Day.

Fil-Am pilot to be buried in Bulacan; gov't sends its condolences to family

THE GOVERNMENT YESTERDAY SENT ITS condolences to the family of the Filipino-American pilot of a US Apache helicopter gunship that was shot down in Iraq last week.

The remains of Chief Warrant Officer Ruel Garcia will be flown home to Bulacan for burial set sometime in February, the Department of Foreign Affairs said, quoting the soldier's family.

Garcia, 34, along with a co-pilot died in a crash when a surface-to-air missile struck their AH Apache last Jan. 16 in Taji, Iraq. He was on his second tour of duty in Iraq under Task Force Ironhorse of the US Army's 4th Infantry Division.

"May the beautiful memories of your son give you strength at this difficult time. And may it help to know how many people share your sorrow and stand with you in your time of need," DFA Secretary Alberto Romulo said in a statement addressed to Garcia's loved ones here and in the US.

No date has yet been set for the shipment of Ruel's remains from Texas, where his Army unit as well as his Filipino wife Apple is based, the DFA added.

Burial will be at the Polo Memorial Park in Valenzuela, Metro Manila, his father Rosendo of Obando, Bulacan, told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Volt Contreras

Mangalindan; 85

DRA. CONCHITA RALUTIN VDA. DE MANgalindan of San Narciso, Zambales, and Quezon City, passed away in Los Angeles, California, last Sunday, Jan. 22. She was 85.

Dra. Mangalindan, a World War II veteran, is the widow of Dr. Enrique Mangalindan.

She is survived by her children and children-in-law Dra. Alice and Dr. Vidi Lim, Mario and Tess, Johnny and Lani, Tess and Dan Mariano, Luz and Rey Padua, Jojo and Ochie, Cutie, Raul and Vica, Dra. Ana and Ken Tadeo, grandchildren and great-grandchilden.

Arrangements are being made to bring back her remains to the Philippines. Funeral details will be announced later.

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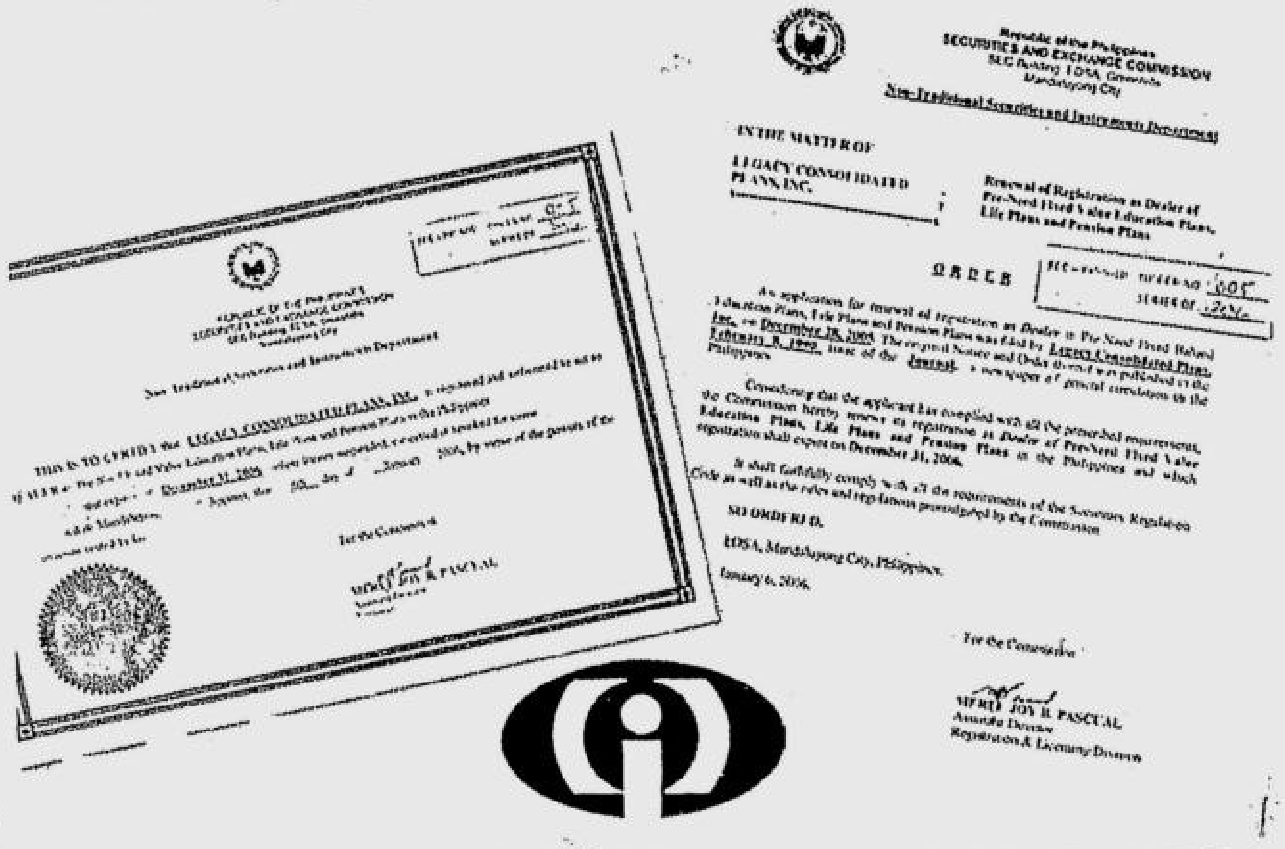

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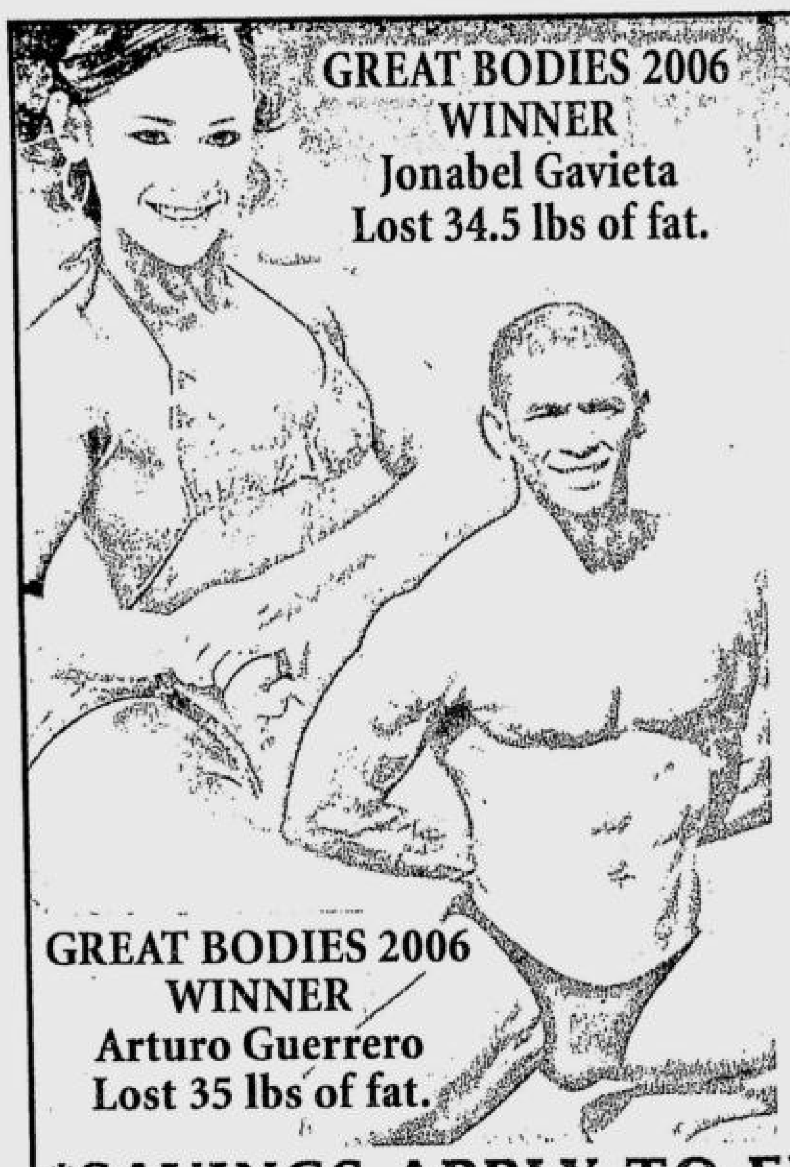

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

US high alert urged after Osama threat

WASHINGTON—US LAWMAKERS ON SUNDAY urged the US administration to raise the domestic terror alert level, following new threats by al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

"I've just written to Michael Chertoff, the head of the Department of Homeland Security, urging that he focus on whether we need to raise our threat level," Rep. Jane Harman, top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, told ABC television.

The US intelligence community, Harman said, has assessed the threat in Bin Laden's new message and "takes it seriously."

The United States last week rejected a truce offer from al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden, and despite a threat of more attacks, authorities said they will not raise the national alert level.

In an audiotape broadcast by the Al-Jazeera Arabic television network, Bin Laden warned that attacks on the "heartland" of the United States were being prepared. Al-Qaida staged the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on New York and Washington which led to the United States declaring its "war on terror."

The Department of Homeland Security said there was no plan to raise the US alert level, which now stands at "yellow," or "elevated," the middle of five stages.

But Harman said "The tape that was released a few days ago, to my mind, is quite scary.

"Certainly people in Los Angeles, where I come from, are being more vigilant around LAX (Los Angeles International Airport), which is a top terrorist target," said Harman.

Sen. John Kerry said that the adminstration has tried to "exploit" public fears over terrorism and repeated allegations that the United States should have caught Bin Laden on the Afghan-Pakistan border in late 2001 when he was believed surrounded in some caves.

"You know, Osama bin Laden is going to die of kidney failure before he's killed by Karl Rove and his crowd," Kerry told ABC, refering to top presidential adviser Rove.

"All he does is divide America over this issue and exploit it."

Peter Hoekstra, the Republican head of the House Intelligence Committee, said the terror alert level should only be raised in the event of supporting evidence.

"I think we should consider raising the threat level, but we shouldn't do it just because we've gotten a tape from Osama bin Laden," he said.

But Hoekstra added: "When Osama bin Laden says he's going to attack the United States and he's focused on attacking us in the homeland, we should take him very, very seriously."

"During the 1990s, he made these same kind of threats and he actually attacked the United States and we ignored it."

Vice President Dick Cheney said after the Bin Laden tape surfaced that al-Qaida's failure to mount a new attack showed that Washington's strategy is working.

"The fact of the matter is, we have not been attacked in more than four years. That is not an accident, it's not just dumb luck," Cheney said.

Kerry refuted that. *AFP*

China economy likely to become one of top five after strong 2005

SHANGHAI—CHINA'S ECONOMY likely became one of the world's five biggest in 2005 as booming exports and surging investment again helped secure growth of well above nine percent, analysts said Monday.

Ahead of Wednesday's release of China's 2005 economic data, analysts expect the world fastest growing major economy to surge between 9.5 and 10.3 percent to surpass the $2-trillion mark.

"It will definitely go past France, so for sure China is going to be the number five economy in the world," Chen Xingdong, an economist at BNP Paribas in Beijing, said.

France's economy posted gross domestic product (GDP) of $2.04 trillion in 2004, according to World Bank figures, and economists estimate its economy was unlikely to have grown by more than two percent last year.

Given China's rate of growth—around five times faster than Europe's—the Asian juggernaut could even surpass powerhouse Britain, the world's fourth largest economy.

"It would depend on the UK's GDP (last year). Number one the nominal GDP growth and number two the exchange rate of the British pound against the US dollar," said Chen.

Only last month the Chinese economy had officially been worth $1.6 trillion, a still formidable sum that placed China seventh on the list of world's largest economies.

But Beijing's announcement on Dec. 20 that the economy had been erroneously undervalued by 284 billion suddenly lifted China past Italy into the sixth spot.

Following the revaluation, the government said China's economy had expanded at an average rate of 9.9 percent between 1993 and 2004, up from 9.4 percent reported previously, with growth of 10.1 percent in 2004.

For years international economists warned that the Chinese economy was undervalued because millions of service-orientated businesses had been unaccounted for.

The adjustment led the National Development and Reform Commission, the nation's top economic planning body to overhaul its 2005 GDP growth forecast from 9.4 percent to 9.8 percent.

The tax bureau also raised its estimate to 9.8 percent.

Economists were pleased with the revaluation because it meant the economy was in better shape than previously thought.

"The details of the revisions also suggest that growth is on a more sustainable footing," Lehman Brothers economist Robert Subbaraman said in a note to clients.

The imbalances had led to fears both at home and abroad that the massive amount of fixed-asset investment, which at times neared a nerve-wracking high of 50 percent of GDP, could lead to an inflationary crisis.

But now that the economy is worth $284 billion more, fixed asset investment levels, a major barometer of how much the government is spending on major infrastructure projects, have improved.

"It is likely that the investment-to-GDP ratio for 2004 will be revised down closer to 40 percent," said Subbaraman, who expects annual GDP growth of 9.8 percent with inflation to remain under control.

Even China's consumption-to-GDP ratio, long a source of concern for a government looking to shift more of the economic burden to the consumer, has improved.

"The revised GDP data shows a less imbalanced economy: Over-investment and hence concerns about a potential oversupply problem in China's economy are less severe than previously thought," said Subbaraman. *AFP*

MODELS dressed as goddesses of wealth and holding dogs pose for photo as part of a celebration for the Chinese Lunar New Year of the Dog at a shopping mall in Hong Kong, Jan. 23. The Chinese Lunar New Year, Year of the Dog celebration falls on Jan. 18 to 31.

AFP

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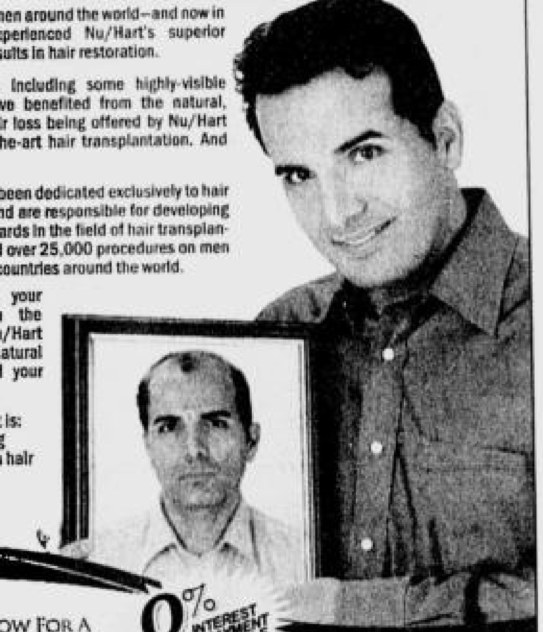

Diet grills Koizumi for backing entrepreneur in Livedoor scandal

TOKYO—THE INVESTIGATION INTO INTERnet startup Livedoor Co. spread to the political sphere Monday, with politicians grilling the prime minister over his support for the brash, young entrepreneur at the center of the scandal.

Jitters about the probe into Livedoor, an Internet portal suspected of violating securities laws, and its 33-year-old chief executive, Takafumi Horie, sent the Tokyo stock market down again Monday after it tumbled last week.

The whole affair is proving to be a major embarrassment for Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi because of his party's backing for Horie in last September's elections.

During the campaign, top party officials stomped for Horie, a celebrity for his bold takeovers and defiant criticism of the stodgy old guard in corporate Japan. Horie and what he symbolized seemed to fit well with Koizumi's appeal for broader economic reform and fostering entrepreneurship.

Horie ended up losing his particular race in what turned out to be a landslide victory for Koizumi.

But with Horie now mired in a scandal, opposition politicians have been quick to seize the opportunity to attack the prime minister.

Seiji Maehara, leader of top opposition Democratic Party, accused the ruling party of exploiting Horie's fame and now has some serious explaining to do to the public.

"The Liberal Democratic victory is mere window-dressing that exploited such candidates," Maehara told legislators. "The prime minister and the ruling party cannot avoid ethical questions. The prime minister must apologize to the people."

Koizumi merely replied that the government was still monitoring the case because it was still under investigation.

News of the probe broke last Monday, when prosecutors raided Livedoor's offices and Horie's home on suspicion the company spread false information related to its takeovers. Media reports have also said the company is accused of hiding losses.

Speculation has been rife on when Horie will be questioned by investigators after his associates overseeing takeovers reportedly were questioned in recent days. Major daily Asahi Shimbun reported Monday that Horie may be questioned as early as this week. The Tokyo prosecutors' office declined to confirm the report.

Horie has repeatedly denied wrongdoing. His comments indicate that Livedoor employees didn't think they were doing anything illegal in their scheme using stock splits and buyouts that helped Livedoor and its affiliates' shares surge, making Horie an overnight millionaire and TV star. *AP*

KOIZUMI speaks at Parliament in Tokyo Jan. 23. Koizumi was grilled by the opposition for supporting an entrepreneur at the center of a criminal investigation by Tokyo prosecutors on dubious stock trading.

AP

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Bush photographed with disgraced lobbyist—Time

WASHINGTON—AT LEAST FIVE photos show US President George W. Bush with the lobbyist at the center of a corruption scandal, Time magazine reported on Sunday.

The White House has tried to play down any contact with Jack Abramoff, who pleaded guilty to fraud charges this month and agreed to help prosecutors in a congressional corruption investigation.

Time did not publish the photographs, saying its source refused to provide them for publication. Most look like those taken at presidential receptions, it said.

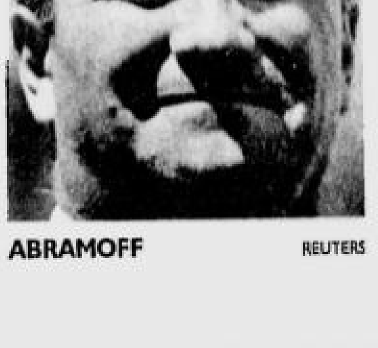
The White House has said Bush does not know Abramoff and does not recall meeting him, and that the lobbyist attended two Hannukah receptions and a few staff-level meetings at the White House.

"Mr. Abramoff admitted being involved in outrageous wrongdoing," White House spokesperson Dana Perino said on Sunday.

"The president does not recall meeting him. We have previously indicated, however, it would not be surprising if the president met him at some of the widely attended events we know they both attended," she said. "The president has taken tens upon thousands of pictures at such events."

Time said in one photograph Bush appears with Abramoff and Raul Garza, then chair of the Kickapoo Indians, which owned a casino in Texas and were represented by the lobbyist. It also included several other unidentified people.

Time quotes White House spokesperson Erin Healy as saying that available records show Abramoff was not at the event attended by Garza. *Reuters*



ABRAMOFF REUTERS

US solons seek review of eavesdropping rules

WASHINGTON—US SURVEILlance laws should be reviewed and possibly rewritten to allow the type of eavesdropping that US President George W. Bush has been criticized for authorizing, lawmakers from both parties said on Sunday.

Democrats and some Republicans have said the Bush administration's classified warrantless eavesdropping program is illegal. The White House has strongly defended the National Security Agency surveillance as legal and essential. The Senate Judiciary Committee starts hearings on the issue on Feb. 6.

The NSA has been monitoring communications, including e-mail and telephone calls, into and out of the United States by people believed linked to al-Qaida or related groups.

An audio tape by Osama bin Laden that emerged last week threatening new attacks on the United States has heightened security concerns. Neither party can afford to be seen as failing to protect the country, particularly as corruption scandals and public questioning of the Iraq war loom over November's congressional elections.

Lawmakers on several Sunday talk shows said that if the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (Fisa) does not give Bush the tools and legal framework he needs to monitor potential threats, the president should ask Congress to change the law rather than bypass it.

Massachusetts Democrat John Kerry, who endorsed former Vice President Al Gore's call for an independent investigation of the Bush program, said on ABC's "This Week" that some Republicans like Bush adviser Karl Rove are trying to equate Democratic opposition to warrantless spying as weakness.

"What he's (Rove) trying to pretend is somehow Democrats don't want to eavesdrop appropriately to protect the country.

That's a lie," Kerry said. "We're prepared to eavesdrop wherever and whenever necessary in order to make America safer."

But Kerry said the spying has to be legal and constitutional and if Bush needs the law to be changed, "then come to us and tell us. ... There is a way to protect the Constitution and not go off on your own and violate it."

Other prominent Democratic senators including Dick Durbin of Illinois, Charles Schumer of New York and Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut made similar comments about reexamining the breadth and modernity of Fisa in television interviews a few days after Rove urged Republicans to campaign on national security and the war on terror.

"Senate Democrats continue to engage in misleading and outlandish charges about this vital tool that helps us do exactly what the 9/11 Commission said we needed to do—connect the dots," White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said in a statement.

"It defies common sense for Democrats to now claim the administration is acting outside its authority while their own party leaders have been briefed more than a dozen times—only after there was a leak and subsequent media coverage did they start criticizing the program," he said. *Reuters*

Bolivia's Morales vows justice for Indian majority

NEW Bolivian President Evo Morales (right) and his Venezuelan counterpart Hugo Chavez wave from the Quemado Presidential Palace balcony in La Paz, Jan. 22. Radical leftwinger and coca leader Evo Morales was sworn in as the first indigenous leader of Bolivia and vowed to end what he called the humiliation of the native population. AFP

LA PAZ—EVO MORALES WAS sworn in Sunday as Bolivia's new president, vowing to end what he described as five centuries of humiliation and abuse of the country's Indian majority.

Wearing a dark suit and no tie, the former union leader for impoverished coca leaf growers, himself an Aymara Indian, fought back tears as he took an oath of office before 11 presidents and government leaders from Latin America and Europe.

Morales, a left-winger and longtime protest leader, focused his nearly two-hour inauguration speech on bringing justice to the country's indigenous majority.

Noting that Bolivian Indians made up 62 percent of the population, he said: "We have been condemned, humiliated ... and never recognized as human beings."

"Five hundred years of campaigning and popular resistance by indigenous people has not been in vain," he continued. "We are here and we say that we have achieved power to end the injustice, the inequality and oppression that we have lived under."

The new president held a moment of silence for those who had died in social struggles in Bolivia in recent years, calling them "martyrs."

His fiery speech also mentioned Latin American revolutionaries Che Guevara and Simon Bolivar.

And as his speech dragged on he said: "It's not my custom to talk much. Don't think that I've been infected by Fidel and Chavez." He was referring to Cuban President Fidel Castro—who was invited but absent—and Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, both known for lengthy, grandiloquent speeches.

Then he made the guests laugh by turning to a member of his own party who was nodding off and upbraided him: "That senator from Cochabamba, don't fall asleep."

Morales rose to prominence as a leader of street protests and roadblocks that helped topple two Bolivian presidents in the past three years. He was elected on Dec. 18, 2005, with almost 54 percent of the vote.

In a second speech Sunday to supporters crammed into a city plaza, Morales promised "a government without dead people."

"The blood spilled by our brothers has not been in vain," he said of those who had died in mass street protests over the past years.

"We are not vengeful. We are not going to take revenge on anyone," he told the river of people crowding the square and the main avenue leading to it, who were waving the Bolivian national flag and the multi-color flags representing the country's 37 indigenous groups.

"We are going to show those who massacred us and murdered us how to govern."

Morales was especially referring to the so-called "gas wars," a series of bloody mass protests against the policies of then-President Gonzalo Sanchez de Losada on use of the country's vast mineral gas resources. The protests forced Sanchez de Losada to resign in 2003. *AFP*

Protests greet Roe vs Wade anniversary

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA—THOUsands of abortion opponents massed outside Minnesota's Capitol in one of several protests across the United States on the 33rd anniversary of US Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion, amid heightened hopes and fears over what a new face on the Supreme Court will mean for abortion rights.

A crowd of sign-wavers clad in parkas, winter boots and collars turned up against a cutting wind Sunday to call for a ban on public funding of abortion.

"We must stop abortion in our state," said Scott Fischbach, head of Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life. "Things are changing in this country."

Many abortion opponents said they were heartened by President George W. Bush's choice of Samuel Alito to replace Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, a moderate who was often the court's swing vote.

Alito, who appears to have solid support from the Senate's Republican majority, refused during his confirmation hearings to agree with assertions by Democrats that Roe v. Wade was "settled law," upsetting supporters of abortion rights and heartening opponents.

In San Francisco, thousands of abortion opponents shouldering signs with slogans such as "Peace Begins in the Womb" marched Saturday, while abortion rights supporters along the march route waved clothes hangers and shouted "Bigots go home."

"Abortion rights have been slowly whittled away while we haven't even been looking," said Kitty Striker, 22, who decorated her hair with small coat hanger replicas for the counter-protest. "That's what's so shocking and so scary to me."

In Idaho, nearly 400 abortion protesters marched at the Statehouse Saturday, including Reid Richardson and his 5-year-old stepdaughter, Allie Zebley, who carried sign with her ultrasound photo and the words, "This is me at 16 weeks." *AP*

Japan tells US 'ball in its court' on beef

TOKYO—JAPAN TOLD A TOP US envoy Monday that the burden was on Washington to ensure its beef was safe and ordered fresh checks on imports after Tokyo imposed a new ban over mad cow disease concerns.

US Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick's first visit to Tokyo since his appointment a year ago was overshadowed by Japan's abrupt announcement late Friday it was suspending all further beef imports.

"We will act resolutely in conformity with the rules. The ball is now on the US court," Agriculture Minister Shoichi Nakagawa said Monday, as quoted by Jiji Press news agency.

Japan, formerly the US industry's biggest market, ordered US beef off the market after a shipment from New York contained spinal columns, which were banned as a precaution against mad cow disease.

The renewed ban came just a month after Japan lifted a two-year embargo on US beef amid intense pressure from its closest ally—diplomacy led in part by Zoellick, who was previously US trade representative.

Zoellick in a meeting with Foreign Minister Taro Aso said the company that shipped the suspicious meat, Atlantic Veal and Lamb, was being taken off the list of firms that would be able to export to Japan.

"It was a very regrettable and unacceptable mistake," Zoellick told Aso, as quoted by a Japanese official who attended their talks.

A high-level delegation from the US agriculture department was due in Japan Monday to discuss how to lift the ban. Aso indicated Japan would be willing to buy US beef again once it is confident it meets its health guidelines.

"It was very regrettable but we understand the United States has made clear statements that it was a mistake on its part. It is important to figure out what the cause was and not to repeat the same thing," Aso told Zoellick.

But the government also ordered new searches on US beef that has already been removed from the market and has been placed in storage following the ban, to find out whether the shipment confiscated Friday was part of a pattern.

"Just to make sure, we instructed ministries and agencies to ask Japanese importers to check voluntarily and report whether their imports of US beef that are already in Japan contain spines," Chief Cabinet Secretary Shinzo Abe, the government spokesperson, told a news conference.

The visit is a long way from what Zoellick intended. The State Department last week announced his visit saying he would push for US beef to be "treated fairly based on internationally recognized standards."

It was the standard US line seeking a relaxing of Japanese standards for beef imports. Tokyo agreed in December to buy US beef provided it came from cattle no older than 20 months and that parts such as brains and spinal material be removed.

Most Japanese consumers have shied away from US beef since its return to the market, preferring Australian or more expensive domestic meat after the US industry endured two years of bad publicity during the embargo. *AFP*

Kuwait emir too sick to rule, says Cabinet

KUWAIT CITY—KUWAIT HEADED FOR a major showdown Monday after the government formally asked parliament to start action to remove the oil-rich Gulf state's ailing new emir barely a week after he became ruler.

Parliament plans to hold a session on Tuesday for Sheikh Saad al-Abdullah al-Sabah's removal, just hours before he is due to be formally sworn in as emir.

If Sheikh Saad is voted out of office, it would be the first time a Kuwaiti ruler is removed by parliament.

Parliament speaker Jassem al-Khorafi told AFP that the government has submitted an official letter to the house to begin constitutional proceedings to remove Sheikh Saad.

"Yes, I received the letter," said Khorafi, who declined to give further details.

The Cabinet is headed by powerful Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, who has been leading the country's day-to-day affairs for years, has received the backing of most members of the ruling family to replace Sheikh Saad.

Parliamentary sources told AFP that the house was due to hold a session on the constitutional measures to remove the emir early Tuesday, in an apparent bid to abort the swearing-in requested by the emir due to take place later that day.

If parliament approves measures to remove the emir—who is said to be so ill that he cannot read out the two-line oath—there will be no need to hold the second session, the sources said.

Sheikh Saad, who became emir on the death of Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah last Sunday, decided to be sworn in this week despite the government's determination to remove him on health grounds, plunging the country deeper into crisis.

To remove the emir, a two-thirds majority vote is required by the 65-member parliament, which includes 16 Cabinet ministers.

The parliament's bureau, headed by Khorafi, is holding an emergency meeting Monday to look into the constitutional crisis. *AFP*

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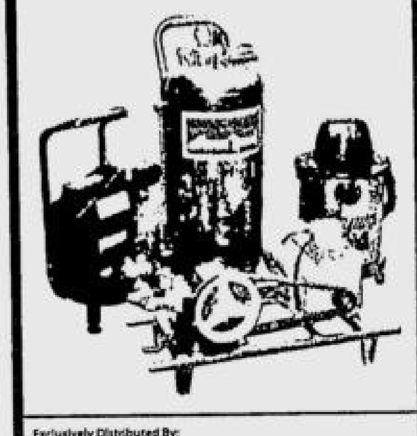

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Russia, Georgia in energy row

TBILISI, GEORGIA—AZERBAIJAN HAS STARTed supplying Russian natural gas to Georgia, the Georgian gas company said Monday, helping compensate for a cutoff of gas caused by explosions in southern Russian pipelines that brought a new energy crisis to the Caucasus Mountains nation and set off a furious diplomatic row.

Georgian leaders kept up a barrage of accusations that the blasts—which also cut supplies to Armenia—were deliberate and part of a Russian policy to punish Tbilisi for its attempts to distance itself from Moscow.

Parliamentary Speaker Nino Burdzhanadze told Ekho Moskvy radio late Sunday that "we have long been warned, including by some Russian politicians, that if we continue the independence policy we are pursuing, if we insist on the withdrawal of Russian peacekeepers and so on, then Georgia will remain without electricity or gas, which has in fact occurred."

Russia has strongly denied responsibility for Sunday's gas pipeline explosions in the North Ossetia region bordering Georgia as well as a blast at an electricity-transmission tower in another region, Karachayevo-Cherkessiya, that had supplied Georgia. Russian prosecutors blamed sabotage for the pipeline blasts and Russian news reports said explosive residue was found near the blast sites.

Azerbaijan began pumping Russian gas to Georgia around 10 p.m. Sunday, said Natiya Bandzeladze, a spokesperson for the Georgian International Gas Corp. Azerbaijan was to provide 3 million cubic meters a day—close to half of the 7 million cubic meters Georgia usually receives from Russia. Bandzeladze said about half of Tbilisi's 1.5 million residents would be supplied normally while other consumers in the capital would have to wait two to three days.

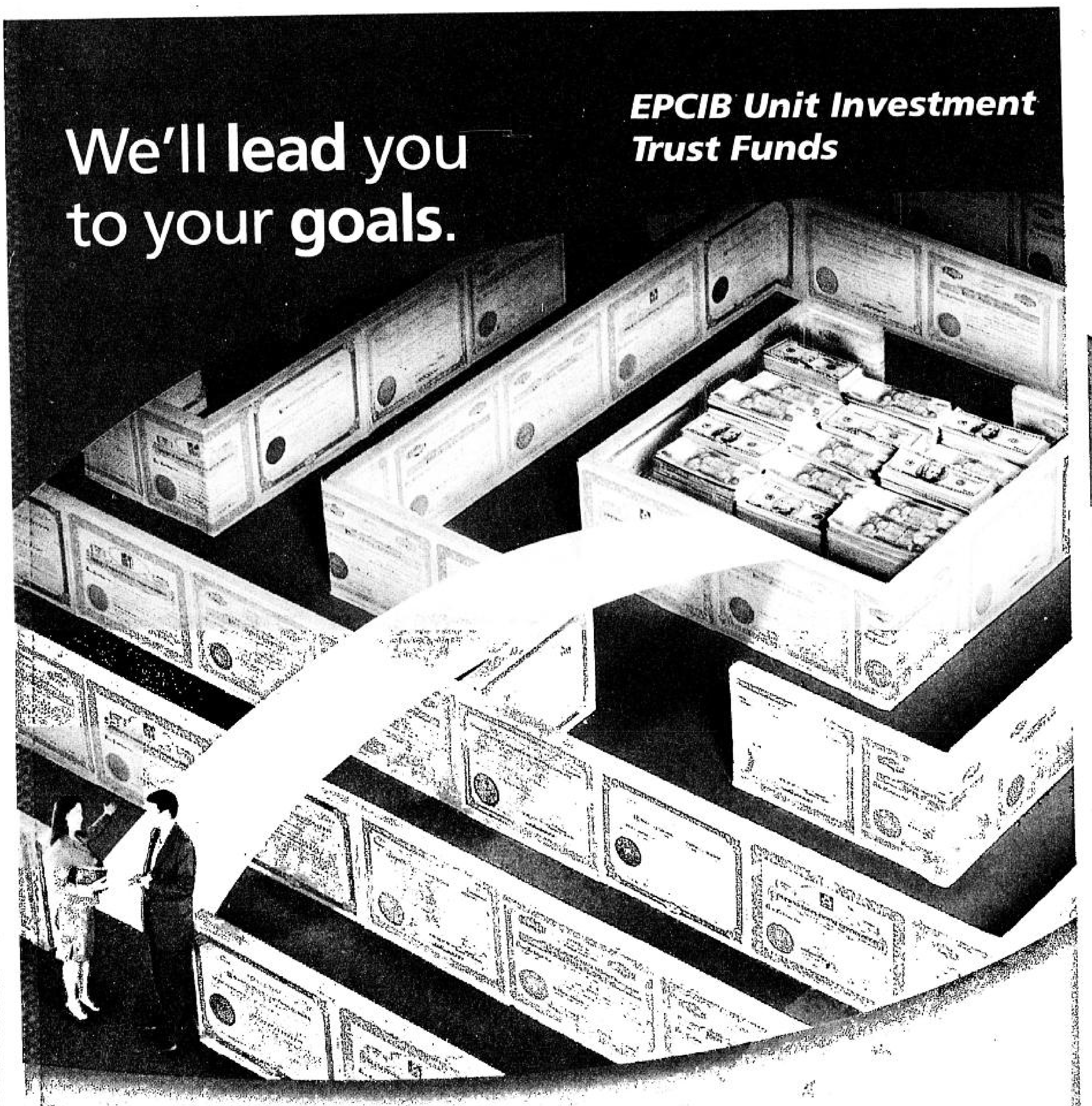
Bandzeladze suggested consumers outside Tbilisi would have to wait even longer, and President Mikhail Saakashvili said three would be one- to two-hour blackouts in some districts for the next several days. In some regions, nighttime temperatures have reached minus 30 Celsius.

Georgian Prime Minister Zurab Nogaideli said Georgia had starting importing electricity from Turkey, and Energy Minister Nika Gelauri was in Iran on Monday hoping to negotiate gas supplies there.

The pipeline shutdown hit Georgia, which has faced extreme energy shortages for more than a decade, with a fresh crisis as it headed into a cold snap. Municipal heating systems in Georgia went out of service in the mid-1990s amid the country's post-Soviet economic collapse and many households rely on gas space heaters to stay warm.

The gas shutdown underlined Georgia's and Armenia's dependence on Russian energy supplies. Georgian officials often bristle at the dependence and what they say are Russian attempts to use it to interfere in the politics of its one-time imperial subject, which now is pursuing pro-Western policies.

"We categorically demand from the Russian leadership the resumption of energy supplies to Georgia as a matter of urgency and that Russia fulfill its obligations as provided for under contract as is provided for under civilized, international trade relations," Saakashvili told reporters in Tbilisi. *AP*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500 YEARS GUARDING THE POPE
Honor guards decked out in their medieval military costumes of blue, red and yellow, receive the Pope Benedict XVI's blessing in Saint Peter's Square in Vatican City, Jan. 22, during the commemorative festivities for the 500th anniversary of the Swiss Guard. AFP

Eastern Europe's bitter cold claims 17 more lives

MOSCOW—MUCH OF NORTHERN AND eastern Europe remained in the grip of bitterly cold weather Sunday as an Arctic freeze claimed victims from Lithuania to Turkey.

At least 17 weather-related deaths were reported over the weekend.

Moscow's death toll from Siberian temperatures jumped to at least 79 after three more people froze to death overnight Saturday. Another 20 were hospitalized with hypothermia, the Interfax news agency said.

Temperatures in the Russian capital eased slightly to about minus 18 Celsius, after reaching as low as minus 23 C overnight.

In Estonia, where temperatures fell to minus 26 C in the southeastern part of the Baltic nation, several fires were caused by overheating, killing two people Sunday.

Fire engines from the Soviet era had to be taken out of mothballs as they were more effective in resisting the icy temperatures.

Two more people died from cold in Lithuania over the weekend, bringing the total to eight and about 100 fires were caused by faulty heaters.

Three elderly people also died in Ukraine, raising the total to 21 deaths since temperatures dropped at the start of last week.

Five deaths from hypothermia were reported in neighboring Poland, where rail and road traffic was seriously disrupted Sunday, bringing the total of people to have died from the cold since October to 127.

In Turkey, a man died of exposure after walking in snow-covered mountains in the north of the country, the Anatolia news agency said.

And in eastern Germany, a man died in a pile-up caused by black ice.

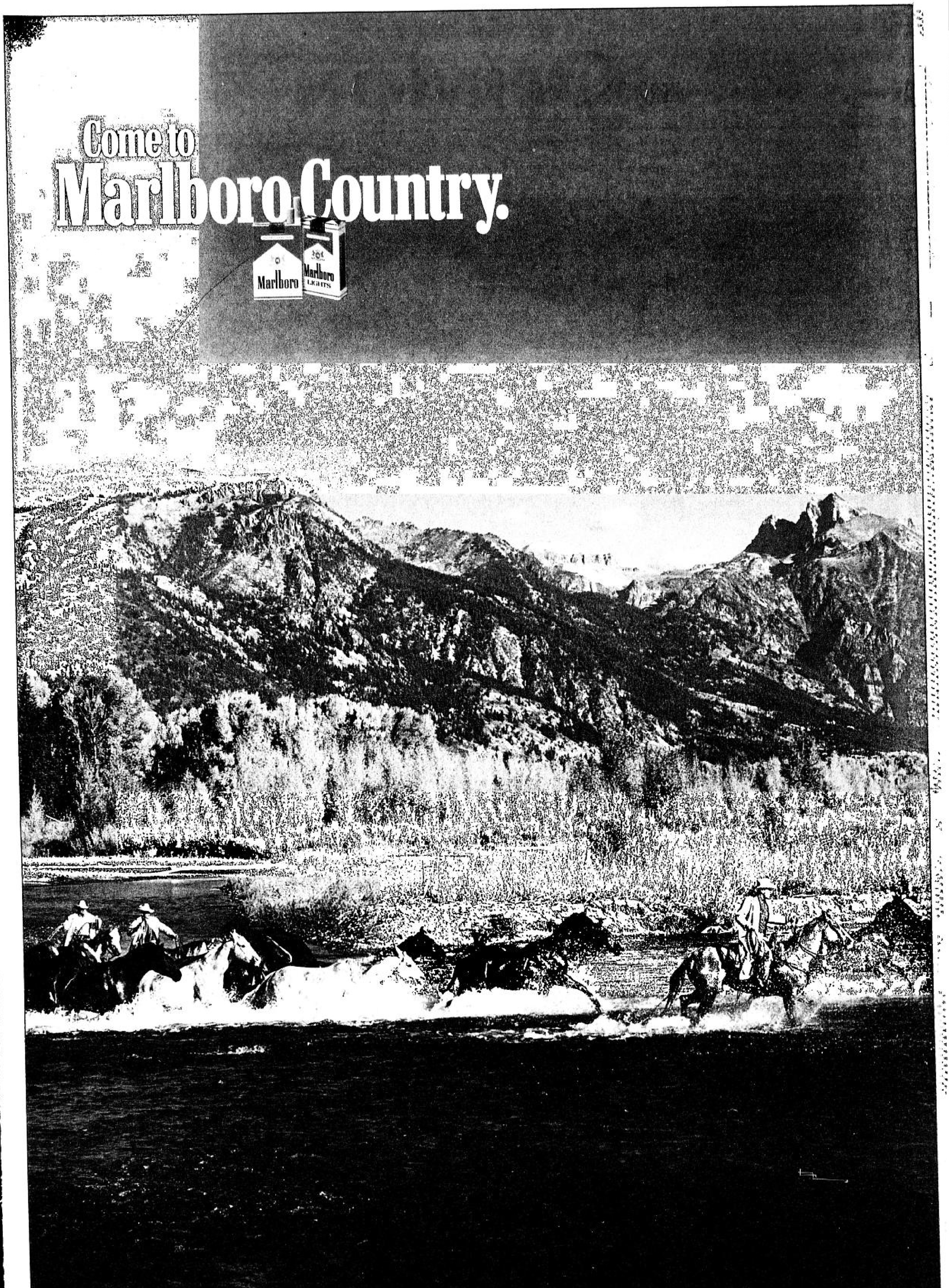
Across the northern swathe of Europe, from Russia across the Baltics to the Scandinavian states, authorities sought to keep energy supplies running, road and rail traffic circulating and health authorities alerted in the midst of the extreme conditions.

In the Moscow region, authorities resolved a number of cases of failed heat supplies to homes and traffic problems caused by heavy snowfall, news reports said, while regions struggled to keep aging heating systems operational.

Forecasters there said temperatures would fall on Monday to minus 24 C but would rise later in the week to minus 12 C on Thursday.

In Turkey, heavy snowfall swept across the north and east on Saturday, isolating more than 3,600 villages and cutting off electricity supplies to hundreds of others.

Rescuers took more than 11 hours to transport a sick woman to the nearest hospital 50 km away. *AFP*



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OPINION

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Unequal relationship

EDITORIAL

THE LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement last week adopted a concurrent resolution calling for the termination and renegotiation of the controversial treaty. The next step is to have the resolution adopted by both houses of Congress before it is submitted to the President.

We hope that the resolution will be adopted without delay by Congress to make it clear to the United States that the people, through their representatives, will not brook any insult to the sovereignty of their country. Adoption of the concurrent resolution does not mean immediate abrogation of the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement. The resolution has to be approved by President Macapagal-Arroyo, and even if approved, six months will have to pass before the VFA is automatically terminated.

The process for a review of Visiting Forces Agreement has to be set in motion. An actual case—the alleged rape of a Filipino woman by four US Marines—has shown that there is at least one lopsided provision of the agreement. A review is bound to expose other provisions disadvantageous to the Philippines.

The Philippines can, of course, try to exhaust all diplomatic means to get custody of the four accused US Marines. But if history is any guide, the US government is never going to hand over the four Marines to the Philippine government. Even during the time when the RP-US Bases Agreement was in force, the United States never gave custody of its accused servicemen to the Philippine government. In most cases, the accused were spirited away, and the Filipino victims in criminal cases never obtained justice.

The Philippines' only consolation in the present case is that the four US Marines have not been spirited away. In two recent cases—one in Japan and another in South Korea—the US military quickly turned over the accused servicemen to the host governments. It is said that in the case of the Philippines, the United States does not have any military bases, unlike in Japan and South Korea. Still, the basic fact is that a crime was allegedly committed on Philippine soil. A Filipino citizen was allegedly violated. And the crime alleged to have been committed had nothing to do with the US servicemen's official functions.

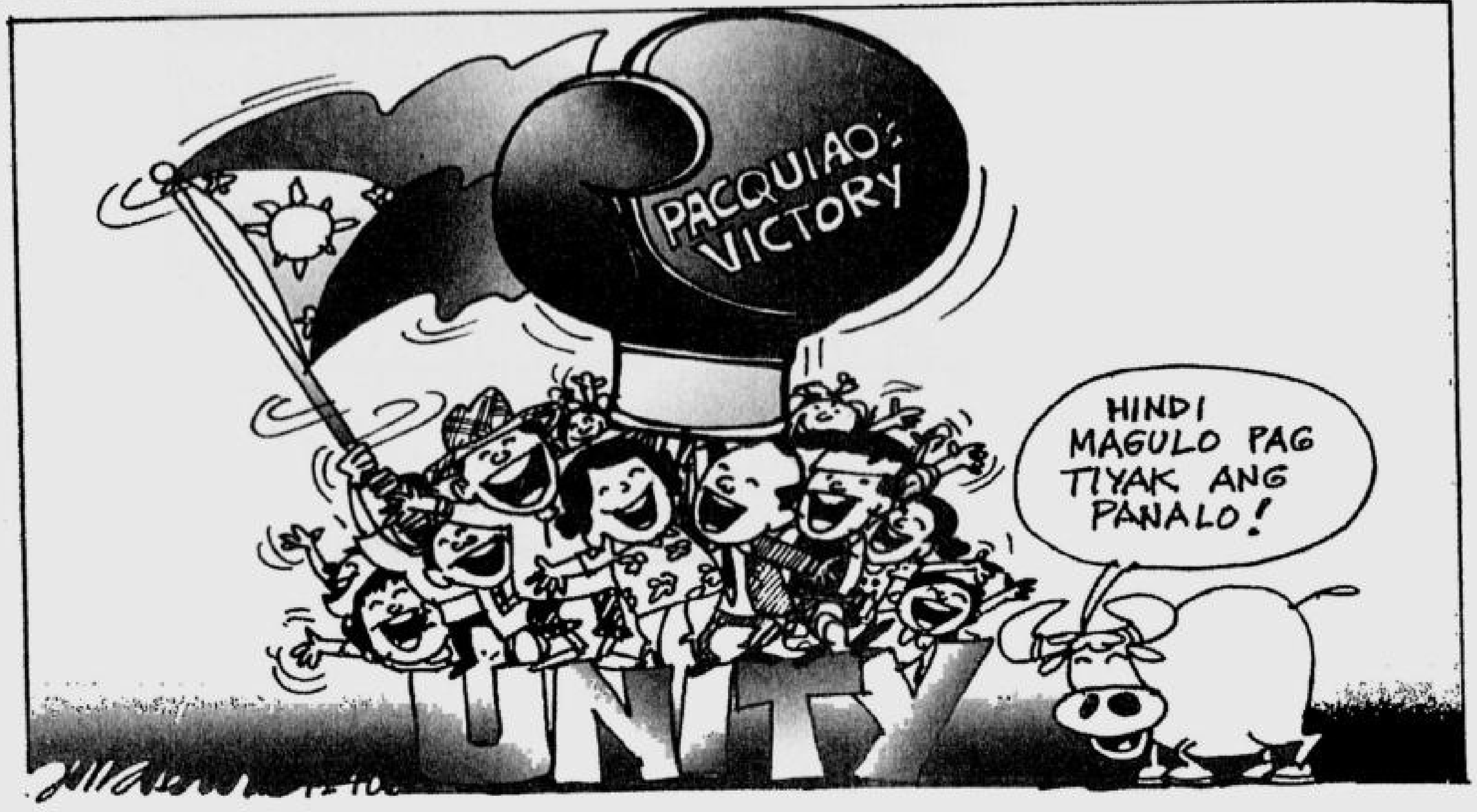
The US government's disregard of the Philippine court's warrant of arrest is a clear sign of disrespect for Philippine laws. The Bill Rights of the Philippine Constitution and the Philippine Rules of Court, patterned after those of the United States, give sufficient protection to the accused. There should be no concern that the rights of the Americans accused in the Subic rape case would be violated.

It is unfortunate that a 22-year-old Filipino woman was allegedly violated in this first case that is also a test case of the provisions of the Visiting Forces Agreement. But the case has shown very clearly that the VFA is disadvantageous to the Philippines. It is a case that strongly points up the need to terminate and renegotiate the agreement.

Under the VFA, the Philippines and the United States are not equals. The VFA allows the US to treat the Philippines not as a co-equal, sovereign state but as colony, a vassal state. The agreement perpetuates the master-slave, patron-client relationship that was supposed to have ended when the US restored independence to the Philippines on July 4, 1946.

The United States continues to treat the Philippines like a colony. It has not sent an ambassador to Manila in the past nine months; the US Embassy is headed by a charge d'affaires. When Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo went to the United States, he was met not by US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. He met not with an undersecretary, not with a deputy secretary, but with a deputy assistant secretary of state. Assistant *na*, deputy *pa*. That is how low the Philippines is in the esteem of the United States. And the two states are supposed to have special, brotherly relations.

Clearly, the Visiting Forces Agreement has to be renegotiated to make it more just to the Philippines. And the first step is for Congress to adopt the concurrent resolution approved by the Legislative Oversight Committee on the VFA. Adoption of the resolution will send a clear signal to the United States that the Philippines will no longer suffer an insult to its sovereignty.


PACQUIAO VICTORY
HINDI MAGULO PAG TIYAK ANG PANALO!
UNITY

A clutch of caudillos

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

THE CURSE THAT HOUNDS US IS NOT shortages of jobs, oil, schoolrooms or medicines. It's the glut of would-be saviors. Self-anointed, they muscle each other aside to save us, peasants, from an embattled corrupt regime.

Jose de Venecia, Fidel Ramos and Franklin Drilon shun the title of "liberator," but coyly burnish their armor. The deposed president, Joseph Estrada, would deliver us from Arroyo misgovernance, too. But soldiers must first, he whines, reinstall him in Malacañang with bayonets.

Or does Erap merely want to hire a coup? "Coups for rent are this troubled country's newest business," noted Visayan Daily Star after 325 Magdalo mutineers swooped into Makati's Oakwood Hotel in July 2003.

Erap denied funding those high-powered weapons, shiny combat boots, sophisticated radios, tailored armbands, vans, etc. for a crack at chairing a junta. So, who did? the paper wondered.

"Our idealism is not for hire," swore Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes and his fellow rebels. "Oakwood was a spontaneous gathering," they said, to save the country from Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. But nobody else welcomed these "emanicipators."

Now, we have additional "saviors": Magdalo detainees who the military says "escaped": Capt. Nathaniel Rabonza and 1st Lts. Lawrence San Juan, Sonny Sarmiento and Patricio Bundag. Add them to Marine Capt. Nicanor Faeldon and 2nd Lt. Junnibert Tubo who scrammed earlier.

Their statement, titled "In Fulfillment of Our Sworn Duty," claims their mutiny was in defense of the people who had turned into apathetic dolts anaesthetized into inaction. That's us. We should be thankful for liberators like them.

We should? But I'm unable to recall asking to be saved by liberators in combat boots. Chalk up that one to senility. Sorry.

In a democratic country, everyone is entitled to his wrong opinion. And former soldiers, reincarnated as civilians, are welcome—and expected—to engage in the political process. Look at Fortunato Abat or Renato de Villa.

Magdalo rebels threaten to employ firepower in ousting the administration. With weapons paid by taxes from "apathetic dolts anesthetized into inaction"? Or from "coup for hire" budgets?

And shouldn't our "saviors" first resign their commissions? As the Constitution says, citizens support a professional military, like India or Britain, but not a clutch of incipient caudillos as in Pakistan or Fiji. "How poor the country," writer Luis de San Martin once said, "that must suffer gloriously triumphant generals."

Did the detainees "escape"? Or did they stroll out after guards left the door open? The unlocked doors signal military displeasure with President Arroyo's skewed appointments, an officer told the INQUIRER. "We decided not to do anything against the President but we will not stop anything against her."

Nonsense. Refusal to make a decision is a decision. So the question really is: *Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?* (Who will watch the watchmen?)

"At the age of four, with paper hats and wooden swords, we are all generals, " actor Peter Ustinov once said. "But some of us never outgrow it."

This juvenile mindset, sporting military epaulets, ignores history. "Governments dominated by the military are the least likely to respond to the needs of the poor," notes the Swedish Institute of International Affairs in the study, "The Military in Politics."

Juntas from Nigeria, Uganda, Chile, Haiti, Colombia to Thailand and Burma failed to secure national stability. The New York Times summed up this failure in one pithy headline: "The Army Ploughs the Seas."

Thus, even the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in November 2004 acknowledged in its Asean Security Community Plan of Action that "Asean countries shall not condone unconstitutional and undemocratic changes of government."

In establishing the Philippine Military Academy, President Manuel Quezon "denied control over the nation's arsenals to established elites, whether nationalist lawyers from University of the Philippines or corporate executives from Ateneo," professor Alfred McCoy wrote in "Closer Than Brothers." "Quezon fostered a tradition of military professionalism ... and showed wariness of military involvement in partisan politics," as did Nehru of India.

West Point graduate Fidel Ramos is a product of this professional military, the book notes. "His opposition to nine coups affirmed those values of apolitical service to the state. (But) his long service to the dictatorship gave form to these fears."

Each president "leaves an invisible legacy in the values of officers it has trained and commissioned," he said. PMA Class 1940 had 79 graduates who never faltered in constitutional fidelity. They bore Quezon's stamp.

Marcos uncorked the coup genie with PMA Class 1971. Among its 85 graduates, Panfilo Lacson and four were linked to torture, six were murdered, Gregorio Honasan and 14 others led coups that flopped. One general was convicted of graft.

Today's rebels were shaped by that mixed legacy. "A tentative belief in civil supremacy and military professionalism somehow survived the Marcos years." All surveys to date show that people resist constitutional hijacking.

Will that last under the impact of President Arroyo's "pampering for survival" practices in the military? "Long after a president's name is remembered only in street signs and school books," the Yale study notes, "an entire cohort of officers will bear the imprint of his or her decisions."

Yes, yes. But who will save us, in the meantime, from our saviors?

(E-mail : juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph)

Fine job

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IT WAS WITH A HUGE SENSE OF RELIEF that I greeted last Sunday afternoon. I didn't know how much more of the ads I could take about Manny Pacquiao's impending fight with Erik Morales. Every time I watched the NBA on Solar Sports, I would be deluged by them. Some were completely silly—"a warrior (Morales) ranged against a united nation," or words to that effect—which made you want to say, "*Ang dami naman kaaway ni Morales, isa-isa lang.*" The others went full throttle in heroic mode: "His shoulders carry the hope of millions." Last I looked, it was a boxing bout and not a rescue mission to save those trapped in a hurricane.

But it had, in fact, turned out that way. The match had taken on the aspect of life and death, of the very survival of the nation. My heart went out to the guy, I refused to imagine what would happen if he lost a second time to Morales. It wasn't just the chance for Mike Arroyo, Mikey Arroyo, Prospero Nograles, Chavit Singson et al. to bask in his glory that was at stake, it was the chance for ordinary folk to feel good about themselves and the world that was so. The common man's levels of identification with Pacquiao were staggering. It wasn't just Pacquiao that stood to taste the canvas if it had happened, it was an entire people.

I caught a glimpse of that when I came home shortly before the fight and found the streets absolutely desolate even for a Sunday afternoon. When I got home, a throng had gathered along the length of the stores in our housing project, watching the TV sets with expressions not unlike anticipating a deliverance or a beheading. When the fight began, the collective groans and shouts of jubilation rocked our buildings. Mine was one of those voices that produced that booming chorus.

I rejoice with other Filipinos over Pacquiao's feat, delivered not just at a timely moment in our lives when we need heroes but exceptionally masterfully. This one is easily Pacquiao's best fight, even better than his demolition of now reigning super-featherweight champion Marco Antonio Barrera some years ago. This one will join the annals of boxing as a classic, along with "Thrilla in Manila" and "Rumble in the Jungle," if only among us Filipinos. This wasn't a fight between a slugger and a boxer the way the first match between Pacquiao and Morales went, this was a fight between two boxers at the top of their game. It's always unfortunate that someone has to lose in a match like this, but boy am I glad it wasn't Pacquiao.

The fight commentators would say the one thing Pacquiao did right this time was to stay in the center of the ring rather than on the ropes. They're right of course. But where I sat, the one thing he did right this time—which should serve as a signal lesson for this country—was that he prepared for the long haul. He did not go into the ring expecting to do quick work, a knockout in the early going, as he seems to have done 10 months ago. He went into the ring expecting a long-drawn war, and prepared for it. He got the war, and won it brilliantly. He was patient all the way, though he boxed relentlessly, and the patience paid off. In boxing, as in anything worth doing, there are few shortcuts, there are few easy paths.

Sunday was a day to make you proud to be Filipino. But it had a horrendously bitter aftertaste, which was Mike Arroyo and Chavit Singson climbing into the ring to whoop it up with the victor. Batas Mauricio is the source of the text that swiftly went around the capital suggesting what the public thought about that scene. Someone who bought a ticket to a cinema to see the fight texted him to say (translating it into regular English): "We watched Pacquiao KO Morales in 10 rounds at Rockwell. It was a great fight. We were all happy, and for a while we forgot our problems with GMA and her corrupt government. But after the fight whom would you see but Mike Arroyo embracing Pacquiao. The audience in the moviehouse booed loudly. Even if we won and are happy, we haven't forgotten their corruption."

Arroyo and company being there was in fact a rude reminder of it. It was like waking up from a dream to a living nightmare. What their contribution was to Pacquiao's victory only they can say. They didn't train, they didn't sweat, they didn't taste leather. All they did was fly to Las Vegas and place bets. Of course, they will say they used their own money, but that money used to be the taxpayers before they made it their own. I do not recall that they blamed themselves for Pacquiao's loss the last time he fought Morales, or had their photos taken with him in a show of profound commiseration. As to their prayers doing wonders, one would imagine the government officials of Mexico also know how to pray, as indeed Morales himself. Why God should particularly want to listen to them rather than to Morales' camp, well, they must have different Gods.

For all Alaxan's relentless pummeling of the viewer with its ads, it at least took a risk with Pacquiao. It put its money where its mouth was. Had Pacquiao lost, all those ads would be worthless. It deserves all the rewards it gets from his victory.

As for the Filipino officials who crowded at ringside, all they deserve is what they got from the fans at Rockwell. While at that, I don't know that there were any Mexican officials in the same rows with them. For most other countries, including the poorer ones like Mexico, boxing is a source of national pride but it is not something one puts in the taxpayers' tab in aid of legislation.

Pacquiao completely dazzlingly, furiously and honestly did his job and made us proud. Tell us lady and gentlemen:

When will you do yours?

To senators: Be not afraid to debate

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA, GUESTING ON the dzRH program Cecile Alvarez and I co-host every Sunday evening, presented various arguments for a shift to a parliamentary/unicameral form of government. This includes the fact that governments all over Europe, in the most successful tiger economies of Asia, e.g., Thailand, Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, as well as those in the East Pacific such as Australia and New Zealand, are all parliamentary.

In turn, we raised the issues uppermost in the minds of people. Such as, if parliamentary governments fall on a no-confidence-vote, wouldn't this promote even more instability? JDV replied that a safety net against frequent change of government is proposed in the new Constitution. It provides that the no-confidence motion may not be entertained within 1 ½ years after parliamentary elections so as to allow the new government to get its moorings, and 1 ½ years before the next elections to enable MPs to prepare for the next campaign. Thus, says JDV, for three of the five year-life of Parliament, the government remains stable and only in the middle two years can it be voted out.

* * *

Another frequently asked question is: How can a parliamentary government thrive under our present set-up where politicians move from party to party. JDV agreed that a parliamentary government is a party government where responsibility for what happens to the country rests with the ruling party. To ensure this, he said the new constitution will penalize political turncoatism. If an MP wants to change party affiliation, he should first resign his post. JDV also pointed out that a companion provision will provide state subsidy for the election expenses of the two major political groups, as in many other countries. The subsidy, he argued, would minimize the election expenses of candidates, lessening the temptation for corruption in government.

* * *

De Venecia ended with an appeal to the senators to join the debate over Charter change. Let's talk about it, he said, stressing that while he and other House advocates presented seven reforms in the proposed Constitution, "if the senators have 10 or 15 reforms, let us know. But let's talk to one another."

Fair enough. The senators should not be afraid to debate even if they fear they are an endangered species.

What's good is that there seems to be more openness in our society now to talk about Charter change. Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales was quoted yesterday as saying he's open to change "so long as it's for the good of the country and not for the self-interest of politicians." INQUIRER columnist Joaquin Bernas opined that with the Senate's stand becoming clearer, the House could concentrate on issues "that the senators cannot ignore" such as needed reforms in the Comelec. (By the way, De Venecia revealed in our radio show that one indication of President Macapagal-Arroyo's earnestness in seeking reforms in the Comelec is that she's thinking of asking retired Chief Justice Hilario Davide to be presidential adviser on electoral reforms.)

The more debates there are about Charter change, the more our people will be politically educated, so they can form sound judgments in the plebiscite.

* * *

Two big events open this Thursday, Jan. 26 at the Manila Hotel. One is the four-day World Interfaith Dialogue which will be held simultaneously with the launch of the Centrist Democrat International (CDI) Asia-Pacific, the first regional political organization in Asia envisioned to match the influence and prestige of the CDI's European People's Party. These twin events are under the auspices of CDI, composed of 110-member parties, and the ruling Lakas Christian-Muslim Democrats led by President Arroyo, former President Fidel Ramos and De Venecia. The meeting draws to Manila prominent senior parliamentarians from Europe and Asia, among them former Spanish Prime Minister and current CDI president Jose Ma. Aznar, Cambodian Prince Norodom Ranariddh, Pier Fernandino Casini, president of the Italian Chamber of Deputies and current CDI vice president and new president of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Representatives of major religions will also be attending the interfaith dialogue, which began as a brainchild of De Venecia to resolve world conflicts based on religion. GMA backed her key ally's idea and they proposed it to US President George Bush during her state visit to Washington three years ago. The following year, the RP initiative was adopted formally by the United Nations and launched during its 60th anniversary last September.

* * *

The other anticipated event is the five-city tour of The Lettermen, called the "most romantic singing group of the '60s" and famous for such classics as "The Way You Look Tonight," "I Only Have Eyes for You," "Love is a Many-Splendored Thing," "Feelings" and the theme from the "Titanic." Their Manila tour opens with a gala concert Thursday at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel for the benefit of the Inner Wheel Clubs of the Philippines, District 381, notably its flagship project, a day care center for every club. "Front-acting" for the Lettermen, under the direction of Angie Magbanua, are the "Three Tenors"—Local Government Secretary Angelo Reyes, MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando and Manila Hotel president Jose Lina.

At the press conference organized by the gala's producer, Beth Sison-Tagle, The Lettermen charmed the media with their easy manners and their story about how their group has survived beautifully since the '60s. The only "orig," white-haired Tony Butala, said they were happy to have been part of people's lives over the decades.

Object lessons

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IT WAS MOVIE WRITER CRISTY FERMIN (OUT of the army of reporters and commentators dispatched to cover the Pacquiao-Morales bout in Las Vegas) who best summed up the impact of Pacquiao's victory over the Mexican boxer.

Speaking in Filipino, Fermin said Morales "entered the ring looking so handsome, and left it with his face all bloody and swollen." And, according to reports, he headed straight for the hospital, as well.

Indeed, at least as far as women in the arena and watching the bout onscreen were concerned, among the distinctions between the two fighters, apart from Morales' superior reach and the vaunted power of Pacquiao's left hook, were the Mexican's dark, brooding good looks, quite a contrast to the homelier GenSan native's Pinoy-na-Pinoy visage.

Still, however much we may rue the ruination of Morales' features, we were firmly in Pacquiao's camp, part of the "One Nation in Jubilation," as this paper's magnificent headline blared yesterday, that emerged at the climactic moment on the 10th round when Pacquiao brought Morales to his knees.

Such was the build-up and the patriotic fervor whipped up prior to the fight that at the early stages of the bout, I felt a pang of sympathy and fear for our boy Manny. Morales was still in good form, and giving as good as he got, and it struck me that Pacquiao would be in for more than just pitying looks and *consuelo de bobo* (cold comfort) should he succumb to the Mexican.

* * *

WAS Pacquiao simply lucky that a confluence of factors—Morales' weight problems, his previous defeats, and our boxer's own excellent training and conditioning, not to mention a new brand of gloves—led to such a decisive victory?

Yesterday's editorial in this paper rightly pointed out that the right lessons need to be learned from Pacquiao's achievement. And the first and most important is that any success—in the ring, in school, in business and in life—is attained only with hard work, thorough training and excellent preparation, coupled of course with one's natural gifts.

Faith—in luck or divine intervention—may play a role, but it is foolhardy to rely only on fortune and prayer, including the kind of fortune you are born into, to make your way in this world.

On the way to the supermarket soon after Pacquiao's victory, we spotted unusually long lines snaking from street corners and even shopping center stalls. Folks were patiently queuing to make sure they got a chance at the unusually large lotto jackpot—P120 million plus, last I heard.

"I wonder what I'll do with all that money?" my son wondered aloud, giving voice perhaps to all the silent hopes of the thousands of lotto hopefuls.

And that's how ephemeral object lessons are, especially in the euphoric wake of a shared national celebration. Pacquiao may have shown us what conditioning and training, and faithful compliance with a game plan and fight strategy could produce. But the majority of Filipinos still count on luck and providence for a way out of their poverty. Maybe they have little faith in the fairness of the system. Or maybe they know just how much the odds are stacked against them.

* * *

WE STAYED glued to the TV set, basking in the afterglow of Pacquiao's win, until we saw the face of Ilocos Sur Gov. Chavit Singson and First Gentleman Mike Arroyo on the TV screen. It was then I decided we had to go on with the rest of our lives and do the groceries.

The politicians who made the pilgrimage to Las Vegas didn't seem the least bit embarrassed to be spotted in the crowd of boxing aficionados. Indeed, they elbowed each other in the race to have their mugs captured by the cameras.

I thought the lowest point of the proceedings was when Mike Arroyo burst into an interview with Pacquiao to shove a cell phone in the boxer's face and announce that his wife, the President, was live on the line. What poetic justice, I thought, to read in the next day's papers that a text message had been circulating purporting to be President GMA's message to Pacquiao, imploring him to defeat Morales because if he lost, the military would launch a coup against her. I won't be surprised if a "Hello Manny" ring tone comes out of this.

If I were Pacquiao, I would start wondering why all of a sudden everybody has heaped his or her expectations on me. The President wants me to deliver a message about national unity. Politicians of all stripes are riding on the wave of goodwill I generated by putting my body on the line. Friends and relatives and promoters are salivating at prospects of a windfall. Even my own parents, who are estranged from each other, are saying they're now ready to reconcile for my sake.

The biggest favor we can do for Manny at this time is to lower our expectations and go easy on the iconic proclamations. My biggest wish for him is a quiet return to his family, a respite from the adulation, and a good rest before the next bout.

* * *

IN ALL our national jubilation, we tend to forget how devastating Morales' defeat could be for his own country.

An INQUIRER report says Morales enjoys about the same—if not greater—stature among Mexicans as Pacquiao does among Pinoys. Even as Filipinos and Fil-Ams in the arena burst into shouts and whoops of joy on seeing Morales fall to his knees, Mexicans in the audience—who outnumbered the Pinoy fans—were struck silent.

Perhaps sparing even a few seconds to sympathize with the fallen fighter and his stunned compatriots would do us good—if only to calm our own puffed-up sense of national pride riding on Pacquiao's win. Sure, we needed this feel-good moment, but sparing some sympathy for the other side is not uncalled for.

That time of year

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

BEING CAPRICORN AND ASIAN, I AM AS A RULE deeply pessimistic and fatalistic. However, scanning newspaper headlines and stories lately seems to make me appear like a bubbling optimist in comparison. But here's some good news for a change: We're celebrating the 50th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Japan with Presidential Proclamations 854 and 905 declaring July 23 as Philippine-Japan Friendship Day (this should make Memorare members more congenial) and 2006 as Philippine-Japan Friendship Year. Various events have been planned to mark the occasion not only in Metro Manila and Tokyo but in other major cities here and in Japan.

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the war's end, referred to the misery brought about by Japan's colonial rule and aggression on the people of Southeast Asia. In atonement, its post-war policy has been to manifest "its remorse …through action."

Following in the prime minister's footsteps, Japanese Amb. Ryuichiro Yamazaki, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of General Yamashita's surrender in Kiangan, Ifugao, admitted "nearly four years of intolerable suffering of the Filipino people under Japanese aggression." He reiterated Koizumi's apologies, expressing "deep remorse and heartfelt apology for all the victims of the war." The mea culpas were again repeated on the 61st anniversary of the Leyte Landing on Oct. 20, 2005.

To show such atonement, Japan has been the top donor country to the Philippines for the past 23 years through the Overseas Development Assistance (ODA). It has lent the government P30 billion just for the 2nd phase of the Batangas Port Development project completed last year. Under ODA, 62 ports were either rehabilitated or constructed, including those in Cagayan and Subic. P12,626,152 has been set aside under ODA for projects under the Department of Social Welfare and Development, including aiding displaced persons in Mindanao

A total of 340 small-scale, grassroots projects costing from P1 million to P4 million have been implemented under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects. Other agencies like the Japan Information and Cultural Center offer scholarships and teaching programs. Some P24 million worth of lighting equipment was donated to the Cultural Center of the Philippines last year and P450 million for the rehabilitation of irrigation facilities in Iguig, Cagayan. Unless the money is diverted into the wrong pockets, 43,000 farmers should benefit.

There's a lot more, like an auction market site in San Rafael, Iloilo, that carries no repayment and the Sea Turtle Conservation project in Bataan ($52,311), the construction of a crisis center for boys and girls in Lucena City ($92,694), construction of medical and health care centers, school buildings and seaweed culturing, as well as relief goods for disaster-stricken areas. There was no mention, however, about monitoring whether all the money really went where it was intended.

Needless to say, reading all this information left me mortified. Can you imagine the amount of aid this country receives and has received (not just from Japan)? If you think for a moment that it was your taxes that paid for this or that project, think again. Our taxes (which they tell us are inadequate and should be raised) are probably going toward supporting your duly elected representatives in styles they were not accustomed to before they got elected. So when you look around and see all that poverty, it's not that we've been abandoned by the outside world, it's that we don't know whether the money goes to the right recipient and we have never gotten around to asking for an accounting. And while I'm at it, what about all those leaders who betrayed our trust and caused untold suffering on the Filipino people? Have they donned sack cloth and ashes and apologized?

Having ruined my weekend, I decided I needed a change of pace. There was lunch at the German Club tendered by its president Thorsten Franz and German Amb. Dr. Axel Weishaupt for a briefing about a grand German Club ball in February to celebrate the club's centennial in the country.

As you know, there have been a number of Germans in our lives including Zobel, the pharmacist, and Kraut who made all kinds of stained glass windows and Heinz Woelke who owned New Europe restaurant that was the one and only civilized dining place in Manila for many years and Dr. Heinz Varwig, the family's GP before the word disappeared from our lives.

Much earlier, there was the German Jesuit Georg Kamel after whom the Camilla was named and who became a well-known botanist, pharmacist and physician with his own apothecary in San Ignacio in 1687. Botica Boie may have been started by a Spaniard, but in 1851 it was taken over by two Germans, Heinrich Schmidt and Friedrich Steck.

There were several German scientists who came to the Philippines, like Feodor Jagor, historian, ethnologist and geologist. He discovered a Neolithic axe in Libmanan, Camarines Sur, in 1860, the same year that Karl Semper found a Neolithic stone axe and a fossil of the lower molar of a stegodon elephant in Agusan.

And let's not forget Dr. Ferdinand Blumentritt, Rizal's friend, after whom an old Manila street is named.

More about the Germans next time.

* * *

Comments at bambiharper@yahoo.com

Back for good

YOUNG BLOOD

Annalyn Cheng

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

LIKE ANY BALIKBAYAN, I WANTED TO SEE FOR MYSELF IF the Manila in my mind was still there, waiting for me to come back. But while I hoped that everything would still be the same, I was disappointed to see that it is indeed the same place I have left. But then if you are a good *balikbayan*, you will not waste time getting reacquainted with your birth place.

Much of the newly developed places are not in the heart of Manila but in other parts of the metropolis. You just have to go to these places to know that somehow our beloved country does inch forward as time goes by, though not in the places you thought it would be.

Like any *balikbayan*, I have been welcomed with questions about when I will be leaving again! Which is sad, especially since I have been yearning to come home and give something back to my country.

It is even sadder to hear people talk most of the time about who are leaving for what country and when and how. Much to my dismay, I have learned that many of my good friends are no longer living in this country—the same people who had asked me several times when I would come home. When I had the good luck to speak to them before they left, I took care not to ask whether they would be coming back since I could see the yearning to leave in their eyes. It is not even funny to joke about such things anymore.

I am proud that I decided to come back. I guess that after people experience living somewhere else, they have a change of perspectives. If not, then the motherland will struggle to succeed without them but bid them good luck hoping that somehow they will do the motherland proud in their new "home." It is the same as thousands of mothers see their offspring off to another land, every day. Heart-breaking, though it may be, it just cannot be helped, yet.

As a *balikbayan*, there are times you doubt and question the sanity of your own decision. But I likened myself to all those Chinese, Indians and, yes, Filipinos who believe that it is time to come back and help the motherland. It is the time where opportunities abound despite all the political noise, the "slow" economy of the Philippines, and bad perceptions about conditions in this country. It is the time for those who left earlier to lay the ground work for the new Philippines. But it should be a collective effort of everyone concerned, especially the *balikbayan* who chose to come back. It is our duty to educate people about what we have seen outside of the Philippines. To help those who do not understand that the country will die without its people. To fire that love that a century ago saw our country win independence.

Like a true *balikbayan*, I have started privately doing my own share. Working by day, making plans by night. What kind of revolution is it that does not have a plan? The plan to unite Filipinos is an essential dream, regardless of skin color, face shape, accent, etc. It is the soul that can pull us out of the slump we are experiencing, not the dollars that are sent by our beloved from abroad. A true democratic and free country is self-less, its citizens altruistic, its families intact. As *balikbayan*, we are an important part of this work of nation-building and will become more important once our friends choose to come back.

But we should be careful not to drown in the pessimism that seems to have engulfed our *kababayan* now. We have to seek out people who have the same love for our country and who have started educating and helping our less fortunate countrymen so that inch by inch, we can move forward.

People salute the *balikbayan* who come back and even hail us as heroes. Let's show them that even if coming home is widely seen as a sacrifice, it is not an act of martyrdom. Martyrdom is reserved for something that is beyond redemption, and our country isn't like that at all. The Philippines offers a lot of opportunities, and Filipinos just have to find them.

Annalyn Cheng, 26, used to work in Hong Kong as a program coordinator for BusinessWeek events and is now home working in a small business firm.

My 'konyo' friend

Isabelle Rodolfo

I HAVE A FRIEND WHO IS REALLY AWESOME. WE GO FOR the same kind of music, movies and TV show, gossip, everything. But sometimes she gets on my nerves. She is a know-it-all and is one of those *konyo* types—you know, those *pa-sosyal* Fil-Am kids. Or at least, she is half-way to being one of them.

I know she grew up in a home where English is spoken, but she wasn't born in the United States. But since she came home after spending her summer vacation there, she seems to be brimming with colonial mentality. From the stories she tells us, it would seem like she knows everything and she has experienced everything, all because she was able to live part of her American Dream. She shops at Rockwell, wears Roxy or Billabong and clips on her iPod as an accessory.

I don't really know why, but all this annoys me. Once I was red in the face and had steam coming out of my ears when she told us how much she was missing California. It was then that I realized how much of a Filipino I am, getting pissed at Americanized "Filipinos" who claim they're real Filipinos and real Filipinos who act like Fil-Ams. It must have been the blood of Katipuneros that made me twist my puckered lips to the side whenever I heard her chatter about touring America. I wanted to tell her off for being *pa-sosyal*. But the Filipino *ilustrados'* blood kept me smiling and well-mannered and polite.

I've always wanted to scream at her when she talked that way, but then I would remember that she like me, she too is a Filipino, although she doesn't know how our culture is really much better and even more colorful than those of the bland, white and extremely plain foreigners up north.

Those who know this are lucky to realize how proud and beautiful our country is. Beautiful Philippines, as many of the travel magazines call our country, is just waiting to be discovered by more and more Filipinos in the face of so many crises, national problems and terrorist threats if only they would look.

Isabelle Rodolfo, 13 is a high school freshman at Assumption Antipolo.

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CA vote on Palparan

THIS WILL PLACE IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE the letter, titled "CA members await history's judgment" (PDI, 12/29/05), of EMJP's (Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace) Lovella De Castro and Ugop Waraynon's Ric Melendez, as well as the letter, titled "We must not wait for history to judge CA members" (PDI, 1/11/06), of Arnold Van Vugt.

It must be stressed that the confirmation of Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan's promotion by a majority vote of the bicameral Commission on Appointments (CA) was arrived at after a long and exhaustive deliberation in accordance with existing rules. It should not be perceived as a "deplorable act."

Commission records will show that Palparan's appointment to the rank of major general was bypassed seven times. Between the receipt of his initial appointment on Oct. 20 2004 and his confirmation on Dec. 14, 2005—a period of almost 14 months—the CA heard six sworn oppositions to his confirmation. All of them were based on his alleged involvement in human rights violations, principally grounded on the principle of command responsibility. No less than Party-list representatives Satur Ocampo, Loretta Ann Rosales, Liza Maza and Crispin Beltran, among others, appeared and testified before the CA's Committee on National Defense. They were given ample opportunity to present, on behalf of several alleged victims, their evidence against Palparan.

While it is true that Palparan has been charged with human rights violations, our Appointments Review and Investigation Service (Aris) found no pending criminal case filed against him before any court of law, as of the date of his confirmation. The commission was aware that Palparan was facing an investigation for human rights crimes. However, the commission members, after hearing the opposers and considering the documents they submitted, decided that a pending investigation does not constitute a bar to a confirmation, following the constitutional presumption of innocence until proven guilty. This is a policy the CA consistently adheres to in its confirmation hearings.

It is therefore incorrect and misleading to say that our CA members "have shown no respect for our judicial system." On the contrary, those who oppose Palparan must first have faith in our judicial system by filing charges against him in our courts of law. It is in the judicial forum that the guilt of Palparan can be properly determined, not in the CA.

Lastly, let it not be understood that this letter is meant to defend Palparan. This merely clarifies the legal process and factual questions each of the CA members considered in voting for or against his confirmation.

—AGUSTINUS V. GONZAGA,
Office of the Secretary,
Commission on Appointments,
6/F PNB Building,
Financial Center, Pasay City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

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Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

'Broken dreams' under repair

THIS REFERS TO THE LETTER OF DOODS and Sol Santos titled "Boulevard of broken dreams" (PDI, 1/6/05), complaining about the dilapidated condition of Quirino Highway.

Parts of Rolando Andaya Highway (formerly Quirino Highway) in Quezon, which were heavily damaged by heavy rains in the last quarter of 2005, are undergoing repair by the Department of Public Works and Highways-Quezon 4th District.

Meanwhile, initial measures are being put in place for the convenience of motorists. The concreting of the gravel portions of the highway will start as soon as the P27 million needed for this undertaking becomes available. The DPWH would like to assure one and all that it is exerting all efforts to maintain or repair the road for the safety and convenience of the traveling public.

The deterioration of the Camarines section of the same highway was caused by unregulated and increasing heavy traffic. To assure public safety, continuous maintenance activities, such as stockpiling, hauling, spreading and compacting are being conducted. But sometimes, these activities get delayed because of bad weather. Warning signs have been installed on both ends of the damaged road section to guide the traveling public. Likewise, a motorists' assistance center, located at the DPWH Camarines Sur 1st Sub-Office at Lower Binahan, is now ready to assist motorists.

As soon as funds become available, the following road stretches along the Andaya Highway will be rehabilitated: (1) Kilometer 281 to 283 located along Tagkawayan-Del Gallego boundary; (2) Kilometer 335 to 361 at Barangay Managle to Barangay Tara Sipocot Section; and (3) Kilometer 284 to 288 from Barangay Maga's to Barangay Cabasag, in Del Gallego Section.

—ELIZABETH P. PILORIN, officer
in charge, Public Information Division,
Department of Public Works
and Highways, Manila

Veterans' share in GMA's P36-billion savings

ON BEHALF OF THE CAVITE VETERANS Federation, I would like to commend Sen. Aquilino Pimentel for recommending the allocation of part of the President's P36-billion savings to pay Filipino veterans their unpaid disability benefits amounting to P20 million.

I do not see any reason why the government has forgotten time and again the services of our veterans who are now living in "the sunset of their life."

Please take action on their plight, Ms President, now.

—LEON S. DEL ROSARIO,
Cavite Veterans Federation,
Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite

Enchanting ad

I WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE THE Enchanted Kingdom and its ad agency for their wonderful print ad. (PDI, 1/15/06) The half-page ad put a spell on me and it hit my "sweet spot" really hard. The ad shows a *lolo* and his two young grandsons, swinging on the *lolo's* rocking chair, with arms and legs outstretched, obviously reliving a wild, hair-raising roller-coaster ride in Enchanted Kingdom.

The solemn, old-fashioned living room provides a stark contrast to the youthful exuberance shown by the kids and *lolo*. The three are in an antiquated sala, with dark and heavy wooden furniture and walls, a matching grandfather's clock and dark-colored wooden floor. The kids' eyes are shut tight but their mouths are wide open you could almost hear their yelling and feel their heartbeats. The *lolo's* face paints a struggle between fear and exhilaration, with the latter slightly winning. His huge eyeglasses barely clutching the tip of his nose, and his toes barely holding his *tsinelas* (slippers), I could imagine him saying to himself: "*Susmariosep! Ano ba itong pinasukan ko!* But what the heck, aaaaahhh!!!

I was musing why the *lolo* was chosen, instead of the father of the boys, but I guess a *lolo* gives more contrast to the ad, more punch. Perhaps, the ad creators wanted to remind us that a good laugh defies any age, that there is a kid in each one of us, that it's never late to yell out of fun, and that grandparents and grandchildren are the best of allies.

Brilliant. The small caption says: "The magic stays with you." Well the magic really stays with the characters, as it stays with me. More power to Filipino creativity. And more visitors to Enchanted Kingdom.

—PAUL M. ARGAMOSA,
pmargamosa@gmail.com

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Tuesday, January 24, 2006

ALL NEW SEASON
THE APPRENTICE
MONDAY 10PM

SEE IT FIRST ON ABC

ALL NEW SERIES
The Apprentice
Martha Stewart
TUESDAY 10PM

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Channel	
ABC 5	Winner TV Shopping World Pool League Sentro Mumbai Thrillers ABC Action Movies Big News The Apprentice Ali Insider
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema Little Amy Mr Bean Naruto Amazing Twins Meteor Garden Season 2 TV Patrol World Gulong Ng Palad Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit Only You Vietnam Rose Forbidden Love Bora
AXN	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 4) CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 4) Maximum Exposure (Season II) Lost 24 Ripley's Believe It or Not Worlds Apart The World's Sexiest Commercials Las Vegas
Cartoon Network	Johnny Bravo Dexter's Laboratory Powerpuff Girls Tom & Jerry Show Baby Looney Tunes Codename Kids Next Door The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy Power Rangers Wild Force The Gransazers Battle B-Daman Energy Bomb X-Men Evolution Samurai Jack Justice League Static Shock Power Rangers Wild Force The Gransazers
Cinema One	Inspiration Ang Babaeng [illegible] Kuya Cuadro De Jack Dahil Mahal na Mahal Kita
Cinemax	Hercules And The Circle Of Fire Curse Of The Werewolf Shadow Of Doubt (6:15 PM) Death Becomes Her Just Cause (9:45 PM) Lost Treasure
CNN	Business International World News World Sport Larry King Live Business International World News Asia World News World Sport World News Asia World News World Sport
Discovery Channel	Deadliest Season In The World Rides The Sphinx Unmasked Zero Hour Wild Discovery Hour China Engineering Against Disaster Zero Hour Crime Stories
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean The Animated Series Totally Spies Art Attack/Un-Inkative Bunny Mickey Mouse and Friends Lilo & Stitch Sabrina The Animated Series Totally Spies Kim Possible Mr Bean The Animated Series That's So Raven Wonderful World Of Disney Suite Life Of Zack And Cody Phil Of The Future Mickey Mouse and Friends Chip N Dale's Rescue Ranger Wonderful World Of Disney
ESPN	Pro Billiards 2005 Men's World Summit of Pool Boxing Series Friday Night Fights Sportscenter Asia World Terrain Masters '05 Pool Snooker Mezzani Cup 2005 Pro Billiards '05 BCA Open 9-Ball C'Ships Singles Sportscenter Asia
ETC	The Insider Weekend Outback Jack Change of Heart Elimidate Blind Date Fifth Wheel Seinfeld Ambush Makeover The Tyra Banks Show One Tree Hill 2 The O.C. 2 Entertainment Tonight The Insider The Tonight Show With Jay Leno
EWTN	Catholic Social Teaching Angelus (3:15 PM) ABCatholic Angel Force Angels Of God Rosary With Michael Angelon The Gospel Of John EWTN Gallery Lord, Have Mercy The Journey Home [illegible] Council Of Faith Good Or Evil: Who Decides? Daily Mass (SAP) Live Angelus [illegible] Rome Reports Web Of Faith
Fox News	Hannity & Colmes On The Record With Greta Van Susteren The O'Reilly Factor Your World With Neil Cavuto Fox & Friends Fox News Live
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako Now and Forever Date With Tiffany Dragonball Z Slam Dunk Frog Prince 24 Oras Extra Challenge Sugo Etheria Starstruck 3 Jewel In The Palace Bahay Mo Ba 'To? Saksi
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched IV McLeod's Daughters IV Angel In The Family Who's The Boss? II Bewitched IV The Nanny Strong Medicine Judging Amy Returning Lily Family Law II (10:35PM) Strong Medicine
HBO	Beethoven's 2nd Superbabies: Baby Geniuses 2 A Promise Kept Sgt. Bilko Rome Ep 10: Triumph Rome Ep 11: The Spoils Lethal Weapon
IBC 13	EZ Shop Home Shopping Network IBC Express Balita Pangarap Kong Jackpot Home Shopping Network ME TV Outrageous Chili Factor The Score IBC News Tonite Home Shopping Network
JackTV	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart The Late Show With David Letterman Raw Batman Just For Laughs (Gags) Mad TV That 70s Show Arrested Development The Late Show With David Letterman The Late Show With David Letterman Comedy Central Presents South Park The Man Show
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens The Fixl Mission Organization Carol Duvall Molto Mario Hot Off The Grill Good Eats Extreme Cuisine Unwrapped Passion For Dessert Second Look Look For Less Life & Style Whose Wedding Is It Anyway? Road & Track Back To Basics
MTV Philippines	MTV Screen Spring Break Dyes PunkD Pop Inc MTV Hits Aeon Flux MTV Hits Get Spotted TRL Advance Warning Pimp My Ride MTV Hits VH1 Video Collections
MYX	Rock MYX My MYX Mellow MYX Urban MYX Take 5 MYX Versions MYX Firsts Star MYX MYXLOG Pop MYX MYX Daily Top Ten Top Of The Pops Radio MYX MYX News My MYX MYX Backtrax OPM MYX
National Geographic	Seconds From Disaster Is It Real? Air Crash Investigation Top 5 Wow! About Asia [illegible] Week Seconds From Disaster Is It Real?
NBN	Value Vision Value Vision Teledyaryo Dyaryo Ko Mahal Ko Ba Siya? Tinig ng Bayan (Live) Teledyaryo Pilipinas Ngayon Na! Bantay OCW With Susan K
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues Rugrats Hey Arnold! My Life As A Teenage Robot The Adventures of Jimmy Neutron Chinese New Yr Animal Stunt All That Naturally Sadie Romeo Drake & Josh The Fairly Odd Parents All Grown Up As Told By Ginger Rocket Power Chalkzone The Wild Thornberrys The Angry Beavers The Brothers Garcia
PBO	Judge Max Asuncion: Hukom Bitay Boda De Plata Manchichiritchi Muling Buksan Ang Puso Starlet
Qtv	Bodyguard Striker Hungry Heart The Prince Of Tennis MMS (My Music Station) Moms Love At Aegean Sea Hotel-er All In Laugh To Laugh Ang Kulit My Guardian Baby News On Q Sana'y Muling Makapiling MINT (Music Interactive)
RPN 9	TV Shopping Defenders Of The Earth Hey Arnold! Wild Thornberrys Sponge Bob As Told By Ginger Entertainment Tonight The Insider The Real Gilligan's Island The Cut Paradise Hotel Newswatch Now Tuesday Night Thrill
SBN 21	New Life TV Shopping Winner TV Shopping Oras Ng Himala Oras ng Kaluwalhatian SBN Music Video
Solar Sports	Denmark Open Men's Singles SF Copenhagen Masters 2005 Swatch FIVB World Tour '05 Dubai Women's Finals 2005 US Open 9-Ball C'ship Sportsdesk NBA Jam NBA Game Rockets @ Bucks NBA Inside Stuff
Sports Plus	Golf Today ACC Basketball Miami @ North Carolina St. Bay Bar Celebrity Poker Challenge World Game Ultimate Fighting Championship Party Poker.com World Open 2005
Star Movies	The Rats (A.K.A. [illegible]) (3:45 PM) Bridget Jones's Diary (5:25 PM) Total Recall (7:05 PM) Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde [illegible] (10:35PM)
Star World	Becker The Bold & The Beautiful Hollywood Squares Whose Line Is It Anyway? Angel The Simpsons Malcolm In The Middle Star News Asia Friends Charmed (Series 8) The O.C./2006 63rd Golden Globe Awards Tru Calling/North Shore Friends Charmed (Series 8)/2006 63rd Golden Globe Awards
Studio 23	Astroboy Get Backers Spirits Wazzup Wazzup Andromeda Smallville (8:20 PM) Point Pleasant (9:10 PM) News Central Oprah Just Shoot Me

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200,000 liters of bunker fuel threaten Semirara marine life

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—A MASSIVE OIL spill from a power barge threatens hundreds of hectares of mangroves and marine life in Semirara town in Antique as clean-up operations are slowed down by lack of equipment and personnel.

Nearly 200,000 liters of bunker fuel have contaminated 236 ha of mangrove forests and 40 sq km of marine life off the coast of Semirara Island, said Ignacio de la Flor, Coast Guard deputy commander in Western Visayas.

"It's the biggest oil spill in the country ever," De la Flor told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

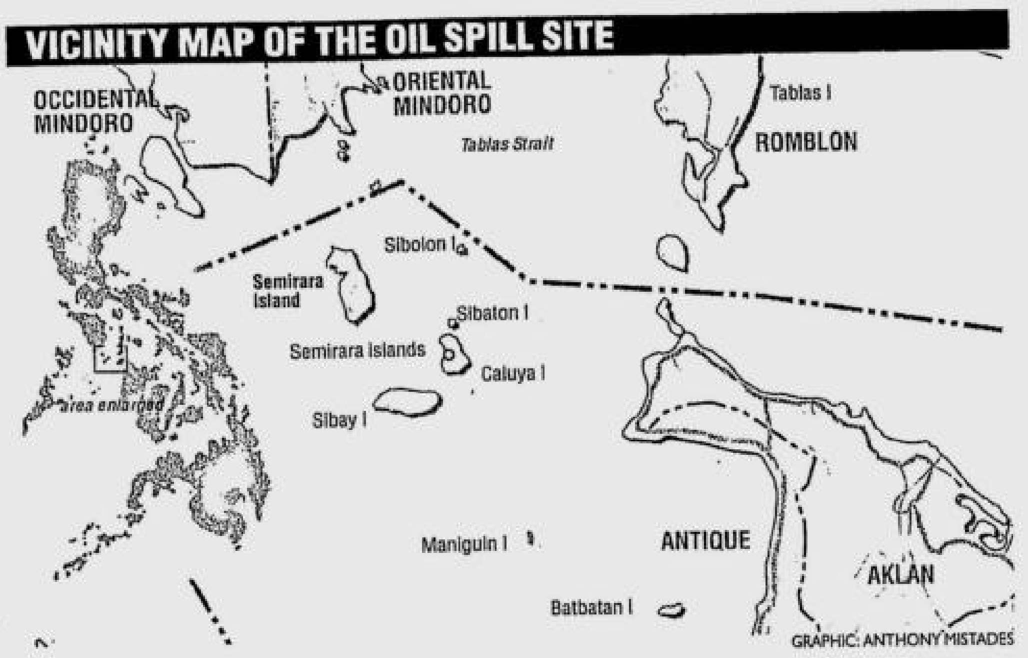
He said that based on aerial surveys, the oil spill stretches to a five-kilometer shoreline of Semirara Island.

The oil spill occurred last Dec. 18 after Power Barge 106 of the National Power Corp. (Napocor) ran aground 200 meters off the shores of Sitio Bobog, Barangay Semirara, one of three villages of Semirara Island.

The island is part of a group of nine islands of Caluya town, Antique, at the northern tip of Panay Island. It is the site of the Semirara Mining Corp., the biggest coal mine in Asia.

Quoting a Coast Guard report, De la Flor said the barge was being towed by a tugboat on its way to Oriental Mindoro from Masbate when it was battered by strong winds and waves.

VICINITY MAP OF THE OIL SPILL SITE



GRAPHIC: ANTHONY MISTADES

The barge was estimated to be carrying 800,000 liters of bunker oil, he said.

Napocor spokesperson Dennis Gana said in a telephone interview that at least 195,000 liters of bunker oil were spilled in the waters of Semirara.

The barge was extracted two days later and was towed to Bulalacao town in Oriental Mindoro on Dec. 27. It is now undergoing repair at the Keppel shipyard in Batangas City.

At the site of the oil spill are 56 ha of a mangrove project of the Semirara Mining Corp., 80 ha of reforested mangrove forests of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and 100 ha of natural grown mangroves.

The oil spill has also contaminated fish sanctuaries and damaged sea grasses, coral reefs, seaweed farms and other marine life.

Clean-up operations supervised by a Coast Guard task force, headed by Capt. Arturo Olavario, Coast Guard commander in Western Visayas, were being hindered by the lack of equipment and personnel.

At least 12 Coast Guard personnel and residents of the island have been spraying chemicals to remove the sticky and thick fuel. They also have been manually scooping contaminated material since Dec. 19.

The collected materials were placed in sacks and thrown in a temporary dump on the island.

The clean-up team has sprayed 6,030 liters of chemicals and collected 4,800 sacks of contaminated material since the start of the cleanup.

But De la Flor said this only accounts for 5-6 percent of the work to remove the oil spill.

"At the rate we are going, it would take six months to complete the cleanup," he said.

De la Flor said the clean-up team needed more personnel and equipment like sprayers and lifeboats.

Napocor president Cyril Del Callar said in a statement that the Napocor was expediting the cleanup and would shoulder all the expenses of more personnel in the area.

The cost of the cleanup would run to P90 million.

The state-owned agency will advance the cost of deploying around 300 to 400 additional personnel and provide the logistics and resources needed for the cleanup and the rehabilitation of the affected areas.

Del Callar said it will take at most two months to finish the cleanup with the additional personnel and resources.

He said the Napocor takes full responsibility. "It was an accident... There were really strong winds and waves at that time, forcing the power barge to run aground. It was a very unfortunate incident, but everything is under control now," Del Callar said.

Caluya Mayor Domingo Frangue Jr. said the oil spill destroyed the livelihood of at least 2,000 residents of Barangay Semirara who are dependent on seaweed farming and fishing.

"What is important is that the Napocor will shoulder the damages and provide compensation for the residents," Frangue said in a telephone interview.

GenSan crime fall linked to Pacquiao

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—ON the day Manny Pacquiao fought Mexican Erik Morales, this city's crime rate was unusually down and police attributed it to the fight.

Senior Supt. Alfredo Toroctocon, city police chief, said only two incidents were listed in the police blotter on the day Pacquiao beat his Mexican foe—a stray bullet report and a snatching.

Almost everybody was busy watching the rematch between Pacquiao, the World Boxing Council Super Featherweight International champion, and three-time world champion Morales.

The streets were almost empty as few public utility vehicles went out to ply their routes. Only fast food stores, barber shops and bars with cable TVs were teeming with customers.

Many people believe even pickpockets, robbers and snatchers took time off to watch the Pacquiao-Morales fight.

Mayor Pedro Acharon Jr. said Pacquiao made General Santos and the country proud, and that the almost-zero crime rate during the day was a bonus.

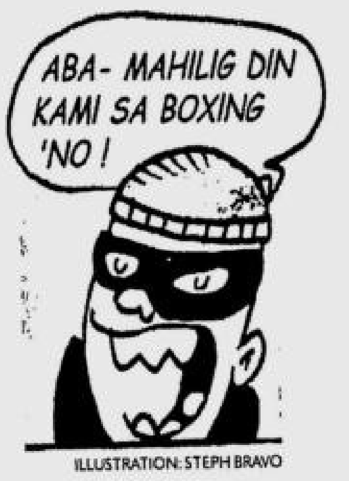

ABA- MAHILIG DIN KAMI SA BOXING 'NO !

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Acharon said the city is preparing not only a hero's welcome but a grand celebration in time for Pacquiao's homecoming.

Even in March last year, when the Filipino ring idol went home here after losing via a unanimous decision against Morales, Pacquiao was given a hero's welcome by the city government. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Hike in taxes in Cordillera trading post seen to raise prices of Metro vegetables

BAGUIO CITY—VEGETABLE PRICES in Metro Manila may suddenly increase in the next few weeks after the municipal government of La Trinidad in Benguet, which hosts the largest vegetable trading post in the Cordillera, raised taxes from 100 to 500 percent this month.

The La Trinidad government started applying a 2005 revised revenue code on Jan. 2, which raised rent at the La Trinidad Vegetable Trading Post from P1,500 to P5,000, and increased most business and regulation fees in the town.

Metro Manila gets 85 percent of its daily supply of salad vegetables from the trading post.

The La Trinidad council passed Municipal Ordinance No. 12-2005 on Dec. 20, 2005, but Mayor Nestor Fongwan said the high inflation rate brought about by last year's fluctuating oil prices forced the town government to rush the processing of a new tax code.

"The town earns P15 million in annual taxes from the trading post alone, but the government still subsidizes most of its operations. The town needs to generate funds for its P110 million budget [for 2006]," Fongwan said.

The La Trinidad Vegetable Trading Post Association obtained a 72-hour temporary restraining order from Judge Francis Buliyat on Jan. 19 against Fongwan and municipal treasurer Wilma Lintan, but Buliyat lifted the order the following day.

Traders have since filed an injunction suit against the local government.

Guerrero Felipe, the lawyer of the traders' group, said the tax rates were "oppressive" and the process for raising tax rates was anomalous.

Felipe said the government implemented the new revenue code six days before a local newspaper published the new ordinance on Jan. 8 to comply with national treasury rules. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

American deported for mail-order-bride trade

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—AN OVERSTAYING American national clandestinely operating a mail-order-bride business in Cebu City was deported on Saturday as an undesirable alien.

Woody Paul Petrea Sr., 39, from Georgia, is barred from returning to the Philippines after his deportation, said Geronimo Rosas, regional immigration bureau director.

"He will be blacklisted. I had already recommended to Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez to blacklist him (sic)," Rosas said.

Petrea was escorted by BI agents and US Embassy officials to the Mactan Cebu International Airport where he took a 10:30 a.m. Cathay Pacific Flight to Hong Kong, then to Australia and to the United States.

Rosas said Petrea violated the Immigration Act of 1940 for staying in Cebu for three years with a tourist visa while actually operating an Internet café that he used for his mail-order-bride business.

Petrea arrived in Cebu on Jan. 24, 2003. As a tourist, the longest that he could legally stay in the country was a year, said Rosas.

Rosas said Petrea operated the Internet café in Barangay Camputhaw here without a permit from the Department of Labor and Employment.

Rosas said Petrea was arrested Jan. 17 in his Internet café by immigration personnel and the Philippine Center on Transnational Crimes based on the complaint of Petrea's Cebuana wife, Jan Debbie Pernia.

Cavite 'jueteng' lords defy crackdown, continue operations

CALAMBA CITY—DESPITE THE RECENT arrest of 46 persons allegedly involved in "jueteng" in General Trias, Cavite, operations of the illegal numbers game in the province went unhampered in the last few weeks, Vice Gov. Johnvic Remulla yesterday said.

"In fact, the operations became much larger and are now widespread in Cavite," Remulla told the INQUIRER in a mobile phone interview.

Remulla said he was bothered by the apparent inaction of the Cavite police on illegal gambling.

He said information on jueteng draws in Cavite came from barangay officials who refused to let the illicit lottery game thrive in their areas.

Remulla said the collection of jueteng bets was reported in the towns of Silang, Naic, Alfonso, Mendez and Dasmariñas. Bet collectors were also seen making the rounds of villages in Tanza town.

An INQUIRER source said a certain Viceo of Bulacan finances the jueteng operations in Cavite while a certain Gani Kupkupin is the maintainer and coordinator of payoffs in the national jueteng organization.

Viceo, the source added, is a brother of a local government official from a town in Bulacan.

"I just hope the PNP and the provincial government act promptly on these allegations," Remulla said.

Senior Supt. Benjardi Mantele, Cavite police director, denied reports that jueteng returned in several towns of the province.

"My instruction to my chiefs of police in the towns in Cavite is very clear: Do everything you can to prevent jueteng from coming back," Mantele said.

"I don't think any of them would want to be sacked because of the one-strike policy of the Philippine National Police."

On Jan. 6, Remulla confided to the INQUIRER that jueteng operations had returned to his province.

But Mantele dismissed the vice governor's allegations, saying Cavite was still jueteng-free.

Just a day after Remulla's revelations saw print in the INQUIRER, antijueteng operatives of the PNP from Camp Crame arrested 46 jueteng personnel after they allegedly held a jueteng draw inside a subdivision in General Trias town.

Chief Insp. Conrado Gongon, the town police chief of Gen. Trias, was immediately relieved from his post.

The arrests prompted Remulla's elder brother, Cavite 3rd District Rep. Jesus Crispin Remulla, to revive the proposal to legalize jueteng.

"Until the government exercises genuine political will, we cannot stop jueteng," the lawmaker said. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Bishop praises antijueteng bid

BAYOMBONG, NUEVA VIZCAYA—BISHOP Ramon Villena of the Catholic diocese here on Sunday praised government efforts to wipe out "jueteng" in the province.

Villena said the stoppage of the illegal numbers game here made it "very clear" that, through cooperation among sectors and dedication from government officials, jueteng could be eradicated.

"If the government and the Church, the citizens and the faithful work together to promote the common good of the people, then victory over evil can easily be achieved," said the bishop, whose diocese covers this province and Quirino.

Jueteng operations stopped here on Jan. 17, after a special operations task force sent by Director General Arturo Lomibao, PNP chief, launched a crackdown and raided a suspected gambling den in Barangay Wacal in Solano town.

The raid led to the arrest of 13 suspected bet collectors and caused the relief of Senior Supt. Robert Mangaccat and Chief Insp. Palattao Jr., provincial director and Solano police chief.

Villena said Lomibao's order relieving the two police officials from their posts showed his "dedication to build a stronger PNP."

"One way of fulfilling (the goal of a strong PNP) is waking up officials, who are sleeping in their posts by allowing illegal matters prevail over the law and by closing their eyes to these because they may be blinded by the lure of the so-called 'protection money,'" he said in a statement.

The bishop, a staunch critic of President Macapagal-Arroyo, credited her for her efforts "toward rebuilding the nation that is destroyed by political turmoil."

"At this moment, we need a President who does not only teach lessons but also removes corrupt government officials from their duty," he added.

But the bishop has yet to respond to the plea of jueteng workers for him to help them find alternative sources of livelihood.

On Thursday, about 50 bet collectors tried but failed to meet with the bishop at his official residence in Barangay Luyang here to ask him to stop his campaign against jueteng. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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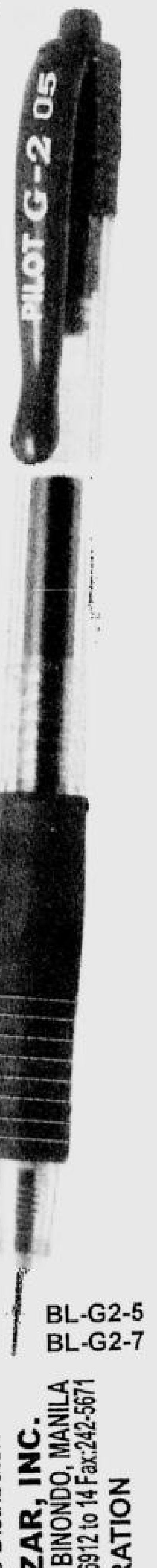

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CEBU CITY: The roar of the crowd at the Ayala Mall when Pacquiao starts to dominate the fight by the sixth round of the 12-round bout could be heard across the nation. TONEE DESPOJO/CDN

'Most watched TV event in RP'

THE BOXING MATCH THAT gripped Filipinos from all walks of life for a few, fleeting hours last Sunday has become the most watched television event in the Philippines.

According to AGB Nielsen Media Research (Philippines), the rematch between Manny Pacquiao and Erik Morales registered a staggering 59.2 percent rating or 2.073 million households in Metro Manila and urban areas in Bulacan, Laguna, Cavite and Rizal.

AGB Nielsen general manager Maya Reforma said the match easily surpassed the previous all-time top rater, the blockbuster soap opera "Rosalinda," which had a higher rating of 68.1 percent but was equivalent to only 1.486 million households in its July 13, 2000 episode.

In terms of individuals, 5.261 million watched the Pacquiao-Morales rematch versus the 3.788 million for Rosalinda.

The match also registered the highest audience share (which compares program airings during the same time slot) in its time block of 79.5 percent compared to Rosalinda's 78.3 percent.

AGB Nielsen uses an independent and transparent audience measurement system for its ratings that are used by media planners and advertisers for their transactions.

Filipinos remained glued to their television sets even though ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. and Solar Entertainment Corp. started airing the bout after Pacquiao had already pummeled Morales to the canvas in the 10th round and scored a technical knockout.

Reforma noted that viewership for the match was nearly double the television ratings of Pacquiao's previous title matches with Morales and Juan Manuel Marquez which scored an identical 33 percent rating.

The move by Solar Entertainment, which owns the rights to Top Rank boxing matches in the Philippines, to switch from the state-owned RPN 9 to ABS-CBN 2 for the Pacquiao-Morales rematch proved to be a superlative one.

"The match benefited greatly from the broader coverage of ABS-CBN," Reforma said.

ABS-CBN made the rare move of giving away one of its prime time slots by cutting a block time deal with Solar apparently to ride on Pacquiao's zooming popularity among Filipinos. The match is likely to boost ABS-CBN's bid to regain its dominance in the local TV ratings game after losing the top spot to GMA Broadcasting Corp. in 2004.

JV slams GMA for allies' trip to Las Vegas

MAYOR JV EJERCITO OF SAN Juan yesterday scored President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration for financing the trip of supporters to Las Vegas to watch Manny Pacquiao's fight.

The son of deposed President Joseph Estrada said that although the entire nation was happy and proud of Pacquiao's victory it was sad that millions of dollars were brought out of the country for the trip of Ms Arroyo's close allies.

"Millions of Filipinos are suffering and are just trying to make ends meet for the survival of their families," Ejercito said in a statement.

"It is very insensitive of these officials—the mayors, Cabinet members, senators, governors, congressmen, directors of the different [government] corporations and the whole Pagcor (Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.) board and persons identified with the Arroyo couple—to splurge money in Las Vegas while the whole nation struggles to keep its head above water," he said.

Mutineer to Esperon: 'There's time for parting'

ONE OF THE OAKWOOD MUTINEERS who bolted an Army detention compound a week ago said their escape was a show of defiance to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Army 1st Lt. Lawrence San Juan told ABS-CBN in an interview aired yesterday that the government could not stop an impending uprising.

"This is our strong statement that we will remain defiant. We have not changed," San Juan said.

He also said: "Capturing or killing us is not the solution to the problem. It is like water; it will continue to flow no matter how you block it."

San Juan said he and Capt. Nathaniel Rabonza and fellow 1st Lieutenants Sonny Sarmiento and Patricio Bumidang escaped by creating a diversion.

He said they were able to leave through the compound's gate.

"Once we got out of the gate, we just walked," he said.

San Juan had one message for Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon: "Sir, I have the highest respect for you. We fought side by side in Basilan. But the time has come for us to part ways." *Dona Pazzibugan*

RP to roll out red carpet in …

From page A1

tions that Dante Basanta of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Public Affairs Office says are still a closely guarded secret.

"We always give him a hero's welcome," said Basanta yesterday. But this time, he said it would be "bigger and more exciting."

Another congressional decoration and an additional financial reward await Pacquiao from the House of Representatives, said Speaker Jose de Venecia.

"He brought great honor to the Filipinos. He raised the morale of the Filipino and the Malayan race," De Venecia said.

It will be the second time that Pacquiao will be invited to Congress to receive a congressional award for his success in the boxing ring.

Three resolutions hailing Pacquiao also were filed by Senators Manuel Roxas II, Jinggoy Estrada and Francis Pangilinan.

At least three resolutions were filed in the House commending Pacquiao. The authors were Cebu Rep. Eduardo Gullas, South Cotabato and General Santos City Rep. Darlene Antonino-Custodio and Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri.

"He is the best living proof that the Filipino athlete, given sufficient support and incentives, can by sheer hard work, persistence and discipline, stand at par and even rise above other athletes of the world in excellence and talent," said Gullas.

Custodio said Pacquiao had "served as an inspiration to the Filipino people, urging the latter to overcome trials and hurdle life's challenges through sheer hard work and strong determination."

Church leaders said Pacquiao's victory should provide the country a trove of values Filipinos could learn from and use in this time of crisis.

"He showed us that not giving up has its best reward," said Bishop Efraim Tendero, head of the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches.

Leave Filipinos alone

Archbishop Oscar Cruz said Pacquiao showed what Filipinos could do if left alone by politicians and bad leadership.

"Leave them alone and they'll excel," he told the INQUIRER. "They'll make it. Sometimes, the less governance, the better."

Pangilinan said the 27-year-old boxing sensation's feat brought honor to the country, as well as relief to a nation beset by a leadership crisis and riven by a fierce debate over whether to amend the 1987 Constitution.

Administration Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. proposed that Malacañang declare Pacquiao's homecoming as a "special nonworking holiday." *With reports from Nikko Dizon, TJ Burgonio, Norman Bordadora, Michael Lim Ubac and Christian V. Esguerra.*

171 power blows made the difference

From page A1

sult if the fight were governed by amateur rules.

Anyway, some of the punches thrown by Pacquiao were close to thunderous, the reason Morales had to be brought to the hospital for a post-fight checkup.

With the humiliation suffered by Morales, there came reports he had suffered cracks both in his nose and his rib cage.

"This was what Gary Shaw, Pacquiao's promoter, was telling us," bared Jeff de Guzman, a US-based Filipino therapist who assisted Team Pacquiao here.

De Guzman said the report on the severe injury suffered by Morales has put in jeopardy a third fight between the main protagonists in last Saturday's highly successful boxing match.

"We can't expect a rematch. That guy Morales had been badly beat," De Guzman quoted the American promoter as saying.

So far, there has been no immediate opponent being lined up for Pacquiao, although ringsiders believe a rematch between Pacman and Marco Antonio Barrera would be a blockbuster.

Barrera, the reigning world super featherweight champion, lost to Pacquiao by TKO in the 11th round in their nontitle bout two years ago.

New symptoms of military unrest emerging

From page A1

tion. Military unrest is a more serious concern than the street-driven protests and legal challenges to the Arroyo administration's legitimacy because the former raises the potential of armed conflict.

Symptoms

The new symptoms of military unrest emerged following the recent escape from Army custody of four officers standing trial on charges of involvement in the failed July 27, 2003 Oakwood mutiny and, more recently, the issuance of defiant statements by one of the alleged ring leaders, Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes IV.

Trillanes warned with impudence that the escape of his four colleagues "had the full blessings of our group (Magdalo). This is just part of things to come."

At the same time, another rebellious group, the Young Officers Union new generation, issued a statement claiming that the group facilitated the escape of the four mutineers. Adding to the insolent statements was that of the four fugitives, saying, "We have bolted from the repression of a bogus regime" and joined the people who "refuse to be cowed."

Trillanes' statement was cryptic, apparently to avoid being pinned down for inciting people to rebellion.

The choices

"It's time for all of us to decide which side we will take, whether we are for GMA or for change," he said. "If you choose change, it means you want and you are hoping that your quality of life and that of your fellow Filipinos will be better."

This chain of recent events was enough to put the Armed Forces on a state of high alert at the weekend and prompt the government to claim that the escape, the Trillanes statement, and the failure of military authorities to take stern measures over the laxity of the custody of the mutineers were part of a "larger conspiracy" to overthrow the government.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez betrayed the government's nervousness with the statement that he had seen "credible" intelligence reports that a group of junior officers had planned a coup over the weekend.

More dangerous arena

The threat was enough to prompt the presidential chief of staff, Michael Defensor, to warn that the government was ready to fight rebels "fire with fire" if they started a coup.

It is not clear whether the rebels have the capacity to launch a successful coup following the failed 2003 mutiny, or whether it would spark broader support inside the Armed Forces. True, nothing happened at the weekend. But this should not lull us into complacency.

The escalated exchange of warnings shifted the crisis over the legitimacy of the Arroyo administration to another arena—the possibility of armed confrontation—more dangerous than the protest movements in the streets and the parliamentary battle over the now quashed impeachment complaint against the President.

Divided loyalty

However, a few things seem clear.

First, military authorities appear tolerant of the outspoken defiance of the young officers to the government.

Second, the reluctance of military authorities to take disciplinary measures against renegade officers reflects a military that is divided over its loyalty to the government, raising doubts over its reliability to support the government. It suggests that the authorities are in collusion with the disgruntled officers.

Third, Trillanes' theatrical performance off-court leaves little doubt that he is cut out to be a political demagogue rather than a disciplined soldier.

Throwing the gauntlet

His open defiance raises the possibility that Trillanes is articulating sentiments reflecting disgruntlement in the military which senior officers dare not express without putting at risk their promotions, accrued entitlements and perks.

It can't be ruled out that senior officers are using him as a mouthpiece to test the government's resolve. Trillanes' statement, as well as those of the other renegade officers, is an arrogant provocation, flinging the gauntlet at constitutional authorities. They are baiting for trouble. Their statements are an ill-disguised invitation to mayhem.

No bluff

It is dangerous to dismiss Defensor's warning as bluff. It could lead to fatal miscalculations and underestimation of the government's capacity to make good its warnings. The capacity of the government or the military rebels to enforce their positions, in case of a showdown, needs assessment.

The willingness and capacity of the government to use force when necessary is no longer in doubt. The record is writ large.

On May 1, 2001, it used force to crush the attack of ousted President Joseph Estrada's cohorts on Malacañang. In the Oakwood mutiny, it was prepared to use force to flush out the mutineers if negotiations had failed.

Let us not make the mistake that this government will not use to the hilt the powers of the presidency and the state to defend and save itself. Let us not forget that this government is fighting for its life.

Balance of power

It is under siege and its back is to the wall. It is still fresh that it did not hesitate to crush the impeachment complaint with its parliamentary majority in September last year.

An objective and dispassionate assessment of the balance of forces and of power shows that it appears in favor of the government. The balance has little to do with the issues of regime legitimacy, although conspiracies to overthrow the government feed on these issues.

Deadly struggle

Lawyers and political partisans like to debate this issue to death, but underneath it lies a deadly, naked struggle for power where numbers are the deciding element. The group that can call the troops wins.

In a showdown, a divided military with a ruptured chain of command, could lead to a bloody outcome. If the young rebels are uncertain of broad military support, neither can the government be confident of an undivided chain of command coming to its side.

This is why the developments and the escalation of verbal skirmishers over the past few days are so dangerous and have led us closer to a bloody confrontation than we had ever been since the Edsa Revolution of 1986.

All previous coup attempts would be joyrides.

AFP show of force …

From page A1

mors with his statements last week that the period from Friday night to Saturday was the "critical period" for a coup.

Yesterday, Gonzalez also said there could be cracks in the military ranks but that those sympathetic to the cause of the Army mutineers could be only a small fraction of the Armed Forces.

The AFP top brass denied there were such cracks.

As Senga and the other senior generals expressed their loyalty to Ms Arroyo, the national police announced a reward of P100,000 for information leading to the capture of each of the five escaped officers belonging to the Magdalo group.

For only the second time in his 11-month term, Senga appeared in a news conference with the heads of the three major service commands to say that the military was "intact."

With him were Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Jose Reyes and Navy chief Vice Admiral Mateo Mayuga.

Threat levels

"OK, I think we can say that there is a threat [against the government]," Senga said after persistent questioning by the media, quickly adding: "But as to the level of threat, you see, threats have their levels, too."

Senga was unequivocal about the military's support for Ms Arroyo.

"The AFP leadership, the Armed Forces is intact. The Air Force, the Army and the Navy are composed of dedicated officers. May I reiterate our call, our declaration that the AFP should and will remain apolitical and follow the constitutional dictum of nonintervention in politics."

Still verifying

The news conference was prompted by text messages that Senga had resigned his post.

The first time the military's "Big 4" appeared in a news conference was last Sept. 28, when they announced that retired Marine Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani and Lt. Col. Alexander Balutan would be court-martialed for testifying before the Senate about alleged election cheating.

Senga said the military was still "verifying" Gonzalez's claim, based on intelligence reports, of a coup threat.

"The good secretary may have other sources," Senga said.

Not that serious

Asked how serious the threat was, Senga appeared to struggle with his answer.

"You know, it's not that—I don't think we should—maybe at this point I cannot say that the threat is that serious," he said.

Senga would not say who had been identified as part of the threat, except to say that the military had "some leads."

Chasing the others

"We know some. We are still finding out who the others are," he said.

Neither would he say if the threat came from within or outside the military.

"Maybe the term loyalty check is not very accurate," Senga said. "We are verifying what the situation is, so we are talking to people, we are looking at what's going on. So we cannot just say it's a loyalty check per se."

Pressed on what concrete matters they had uncovered, Senga replied: "There are indications of some intentions. But intention is different from capability, or discussions about some things."

Reyes: 'No crack'

Air Force chief Reyes denied that his decision to allow 12 detained Oakwood mutineers to publicly air their defiance of Ms Arroyo indicated a crack in the military leadership.

"I would categorically say that there is no crack in the leadership in the Air Force and in the Armed Forces. We are loyal to our constitutional mandate and we are squarely behind the chain of command," Reyes said.

But Gonzalez would not rule out cracks in the military ranks.

DOJ probe panel

"That's possible," he said. "The possibility is always there. Maybe these Magdalo people have some friends, their families have friends, but I don't think it's significant."

Gonzalez also announced the formation of a five-man panel to investigate the escape of the mutineers.

Gonzalez said the panel should determine the circumstances of their escape and the persons responsible for it, as well as the existence of any possible conspiracy.

3,000 posters

National police spokesperson Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil said they had printed some 3,000 posters with the faces of the fugitives for distribution to police stations, bus terminals, air and sea ports and malls.

Tipsters may call Patrol 117 or text to 2920, the PNP text hotline, he said. *With a report from Luige A. del Puerto*

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3 officers in Oakwood mutiny face arrest

By Tarra V. Quismundo

A MAKATI REGIONAL TRIAL Court (RTC) judge yesterday ordered the issuance of arrest warrants for three junior officers who joined a short-lived mutiny in 2003 but escaped from detention last week.

The warrants of arrest were ordered issued by Judge Oscar Pimentel of Branch 148 for Capt. Nathaniel Rabonza and 1st Lieutenants Lawrence San Juan and Sonny Sarmiento, who, together with 1st Lt. Patricio Bumidang, sneaked out of their cell in Fort Bonifacio at around 9 p.m. last Jan. 17.

Rabonza, San Juan and Sarmiento are among 31 junior military officers who are facing trial on coup d'état charges. They are accused of leading 300 soldiers in taking over the Oakwood Premier apartment-hotel in Makati City in July 2003.

Bumidang, on the other hand, is facing court martial charges, along with 96 other soldiers, for his role in the failed mutiny.

Pimentel ordered the issuance of the arrest warrants following a motion filed by the Department of Justice last Friday. State prosecutors have also sought hold departure orders for the junior officers.

The judge asked Assistant Chief State Prosecutor Richard Anthony Fadullon and State Prosecutor Juan Navera for documents to support their petition.

Pimentel earlier issued an arrest warrant for Marine Capt. Nicanor Faeldon, one of the leaders of the Oakwood mutiny, who escaped from his military escorts after attending a court hearing on Dec. 19.

At the hearing yesterday on the coup charges against the soldiers, Fadullon asked the court to cite in contempt members of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Force of the Philippines (Isafp), the detainees' custodians, for allowing Lt.(SG) Antonio Trillanes, another leader of the mutiny, to speak to the media during the previous hearing last Tuesday.

"The bottom line is the Isafp had been ordered by the court to apply stricter security measures after Faeldon's escape. Then they allow Trillanes to air his statement before the media," Fadullon told the INQUIRER.

After Pimentel adjourned last Tuesday's hearing, Trillanes gave a statement to the media appealing to the nation to decide whether or not they would stick to the status quo or take action to effect a change.

As his guards looked on, Trillanes granted a 20-minute interview to a television news anchor before he was brought back to his detention cell.

"The argument is it runs counter to freedom of speech. Everybody is entitled to that, but remember, Trillanes is not an ordinary citizen. You have all the basic rights, but when you are on trial for criminal charges, you should be prohibited from being interviewed," Fadullon said.

"The same is done in the case of the former president at the Sandiganbayan," he added, referring to jailed former president Joseph Estrada, who is on trial for plunder, and has been prohibited from issuing statements to media.

NBI to look into killing of slay suspect

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (NBI) is looking into the death of robbery suspect Victor Martin, who was tagged by some policemen as the second suspect in the killing of the grandson of a prominent businessman and resort owner last week.

NBI Special Task Force chief Reynaldo Esmeralda said they have subpoenaed PO2 Jesus de Leon and PO2 Celso Tabobo of the Manila Police District (MPD) Station 9 to shed light on the circumstances surrounding Martin's death. The victim's family has filed a complaint with the NBI, asking the bureau to investigate the incident.

MPD Station 9 chief Supt. Marcelino Pedrozo Jr. had said earlier that Martin, who was shot in the chest after allegedly grabbing De Leon's gun last Friday, was identified by his companion as the driver of the motorcycle used in connection with the killing of 19-year-old Manuel Zachary Escudero. Pedrozo explained that they arrested Martin and his friend Leopoldo Villanueva in Pasay City early Friday as suspects in the killing of Escudero.

The victim was a grandson of Conrado "Ado" Escudero, owner of Villa Escudero, a popular resort in Tiaong, Quezon province. The young Escudero was walking at the corner of P. Ocampo and Arellano Streets in Malate when two motorcycle-riding suspects snatched his cell phone. Escudero was declared dead on arrival at the hospital after he was allegedly shot in the chest by Hilario Dizon.

Pedrozo said that while Martin was being interrogated by De Leon, the suspect requested the policeman to remove his handcuffs so he could go to the toilet. Tabobo was forced to shoot the suspect when Martin grabbed De Leon's gun, Pedrozo added.

However, Esmeralda said that when his men visited the scene where Escudero was shot, the witnesses were not able to identify Martin as a suspect. "The witnesses insisted that Dizon, who was earlier presented as the gunman, was the prime suspect in the killing," Esmeralda said. He added that the Escudero family told the NBI that Dizon's nickname "Boyet" was written on a baseball cap recovered at the crime scene. Senior Insp. Dominador Arevalo, chief of the MPD Homicide Section, however, said he had not received an official report of Martin's arrest.

BLAST FROM THE PAST
A woman walks past two horseless rigs (*calesa*) parked in Tondo, Manila. Although the number of *calesas* plying Metro roads have decreased over the years, a few can still be seen in Binondo, the horses pulling them plodding alongside jeepneys and cars.
REM ZAMORA

RP's 'walking encyclopedia' signs off

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE WALKING "BOOK OF KNOWLedge," Ernesto "Ka Ernie" Baron, died yesterday in his Muntinlupa City home.

He was 65 years old.

ABS-CBN, the TV network that catapulted Baron to popularity after he became the weatherman on its news program, TV Patrol, expressed sadness over his death.

"The passing of our beloved 'Ka Ernie' brings great sorrow to the ABS-CBN family," it said in a statement.

Describing Baron as "an icon in local sciences and the broadcast industry," the TV network said "Ka Ernie endeared himself to the public as a credible radio-TV personality, a Pinoy genius and the country's walking encyclopedia."

Baron was taken to the Muntinlupa City Medical Center (MCMC) at around 9:30 a.m. after his daughter, Shirley, found him unconscious on his bed.

Earlier, Shirley forced her way into her father's room when he failed to come down for breakfast.

BARON

Although Baron was declared dead on arrival when he was brought into the hospital, MCMC physicians Gibson Garcia and Cesar Berroya still tried to revive him, the hospital's information personnel told the INQUIRER yesterday.

The doctors said Baron could have died of a silent myocardial infarction or of complications from diabetes.

"Relatives said he just didn't wake up," said the owner of the Zenaida Lim-De Mesa Funeral Homes, where Baron's body was taken from the hospital.

The INQUIRER tried to speak with Baron's relatives but they did not want to give further details yet.

Baron's body, placed in a silver metal casket, was brought to the Ruby Chapel of the Divine Mercy Chapels Inc. in Tunasan, Muntinlupa City, in the afternoon.

The schedule of interment has yet to be announced but the INQUIRER learned from the Zenaida Lim-De Mesa Funeral Homes that he would be buried at the Angeles Memorial Park in Bacoor, Cavite.

Baron started his career in radio in 1965 on "Mga Gintong Kaalaman," an educational program, as a blocktime announcer.

He later moved to dzMM where he hosted the program "Knowledge Power," which also became a TV show on ABS-CBN.

Crackdown vs unsafe LPG tanks looms

By Abigail L. Ho

THREE DEPARTMENTS HAVE BANDED TOgether to form a multi-agency task force that will run after liquefied petroleum gas ((LPG) dealers who engage in illegal and unsafe business practices.

Under the memorandum of agreement signed recently by the Department of Energy (DOE), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Task Force LPG will crack down on traders that sell under filled, dilapidated, uncertified and unsafe LPG cylinders.

Task force

A special task force will be established for each city and municipality of Metro Manila, as well as units to be set up in all provinces and cities nationwide.

The task force will be composed of the governor or mayor in a particular area, officials and representatives of the DILG, Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), the Philippine National Police (PNP), DOE and DTI.

According to the energy department, out of the 1,175 LPG establishments that it inspected with the DTI last year, 896 or 76 percent were found to be selling unbranded and tampered cylinders, under filled tanks, or defective tanks that had no tare weight, serial number and appropriate seals.

"Should there be violations found during the regular monitoring and the actual operations, upon recommendations by the DOE and the DTI, sanctions can immediately be implemented by the concerned LGUs," the DOE said in a statement yesterday.

"Apart from the corresponding fines, sanctions include the confiscation of defective and non-compliant cylinders and/or closure of the establishments and suspension or revocation of business permits," it added.

Violations

Among the illegal practices are underfilling, as well as tampering, altering or modifying the LPG cylinder by changing the valve or repainting or re-labeling it.

Also prohibited are the unauthorized refilling of cylinders, the absence of a trade name, selling unbranded cylinders or those with no serial numbers, tare weight or incorrect tare weight markings.

Mike Defensor's fighting words

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

FOR ONE BRIEF MOMENT—AT least while Manny Pacquiao was slugging it out with Mexico's Erik Morales—the country became united as Filipinos cheered for their compatriot.

Members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and communist New People's Army (NPA) stopped their ambuscades of military patrols to watch Mindanao-born Pacquiao slug it out with the Mexican.

Government troops stayed in their barracks to watch the fight. The opposition and administration politicians who didn't go to Las Vegas forgot about politics while their eyes were glued to the TV set.

In many parts of the country, young and old, the unemployed *kanto* boys and office workers, customers and storeowners, domestic helpers and their employers huddled together to punch the air, shout and hug one another as Pacquiao scored hits on his Mexican opponent and finally won.

We were a picture of one nation, one people. At least for that one brief moment of victory.

Pacquiao expressed the ideal sentiment when he said, in answer to a TV reporter's question on what his message to his countrymen: "*Sana magkaintindihan na po tayong lahat* (I hope we'll all finally end our differences)."

* * *

The Philippines hasn't moved forward while its once-poor neighbors have because Filipinos are disunited.

Muslims fight Christians, Tagalogs look down upon the Visayans, Visayans laugh at the Ilocanos, Cebuanos laugh at Boholanos, Kapampangans feel superior to other ethnic groups, Catholics are against Protestants, and so on and so forth.

In the US, cities like New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco, Americans of Oriental origin have their own enclaves. The Chinese have their Chinatown; Koreans their Koreatown, the Japanese Japantown; Vietnamtown for the Vietnamese..

But there is no Philippinetown. Why? Because Filipinos are trying to upstage one another. Pinoys have formed themselves into Samahang Ilocano, Cavite association, Kapampangan group, Visayan group, with scores of sub-groups. These subgroups were formed by Pinoys who lost in the elections of officer in their mother groups. If the unity we showed in the Pacquiao fight and victory could be translated into the economic and political spheres, there's no reason we won't move up.

* * *

THE STATEMENT by Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor that Malacañang would fight rebel soldiers and their civilian sympathizers "fire with fire" has elicited a strong reaction from some quarters.

Some administration politicians joined their counterparts in the opposition in criticizing Defensor's fighting words.

But what would you have the enfant terrible say, that his boss would give up Malacañang without a fight? That she would cower in fear while the rebels and their cohorts are knocking at the Palace gates?

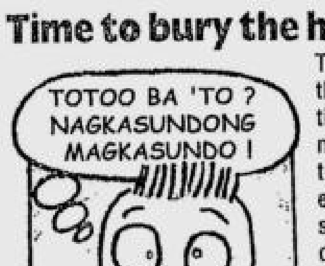
Look what happened to Marcos and Erap. They forfeited their right to the highest post of the land by giving up without a fight. But they are of a different mold than Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Never underestimate the capacity of a woman - and any other woman for that matter - to fight back when she is cornered.

METROBRIEFS

Webb family to put up website on Hubert

THE FAMILY of Hubert Webb, one of the accused in the highly publicized Vizconde murders, plan to put up a web site showing evidence proving his innocence. "We want the people to know the truth, because a lot of people believe that I am guilty," Webb, who is detained at the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa City, told the INQUIRER. The Court of Appeals last month upheld his conviction on charges of rape with homicide after it threw out his alibi that he was out of the country at the time the victims—Carmela Vizconde, her mother, Estrellita, and younger sister, Jennifer, were killed inside their home in BF Homes, Parañaque. But he said he was not bitter about the decision. "Someday I know that I will be free, whether I am still alive or dead by that time, it doesn't matter as long as I know I am getting out of here eventually. That's what keeps me strong," he told the INQUIRER. ***Jocelyn R. Uy***

Time to bury the hatchet – for now



TOTOO BA 'TO ? NAGKASUNDONG MAGKASUNDO !

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and the Makati City government have agreed to work together—for the time being. The two agencies, which have been at odds over the management of traffic in the financial district, will jointly work on the greening of the President Sergio Osmeña Highway. "We decided to have a joint project because we saw that basically, we had the same plan for the area," said MMDA General Manager Robert Nacianceno. "We have already arrived at the agreement that their plan would complement the city's landscape plan, particularly the plants they would use," said Makati's Department of Environmental Services chief Danilo Villas. Makati's greening crew earlier uprooted the banana trees that the MMDA had planted along the stretch as city officials said the fruit-bearing plant was a bad choice to spruce up a major highway in the country's financial center. ***Tarra V. Quismundo***

Greenhills suspends 2 stall owners

THE MANAGEMENT of the Greenhills Shopping Center in San Juan has slapped a one-month suspension on the owners of two stalls where two television reporters found their stolen phones last week. "We have decided to suspend the operations of the two stalls for maybe a month or even longer," center general manager Joey Santos told the INQUIRER. If the management keeps its word, then Stall Numbers V-9 at the Center Mall and 118 at the Annex Center Mall should be temporarily closed by now. The action taken by the shopping center's management came even if ABC-5 employees Theresa Andrada and Jason Torres have yet to file any formal complaint against the two stall owners. Andrada and Torres last week found their company-issued XDA-II phones, earlier stolen in separate incidents, in the stalls owned by Abdulmalik Basher and Kalic Sarip. ***Edson C. Tandoc Jr.***

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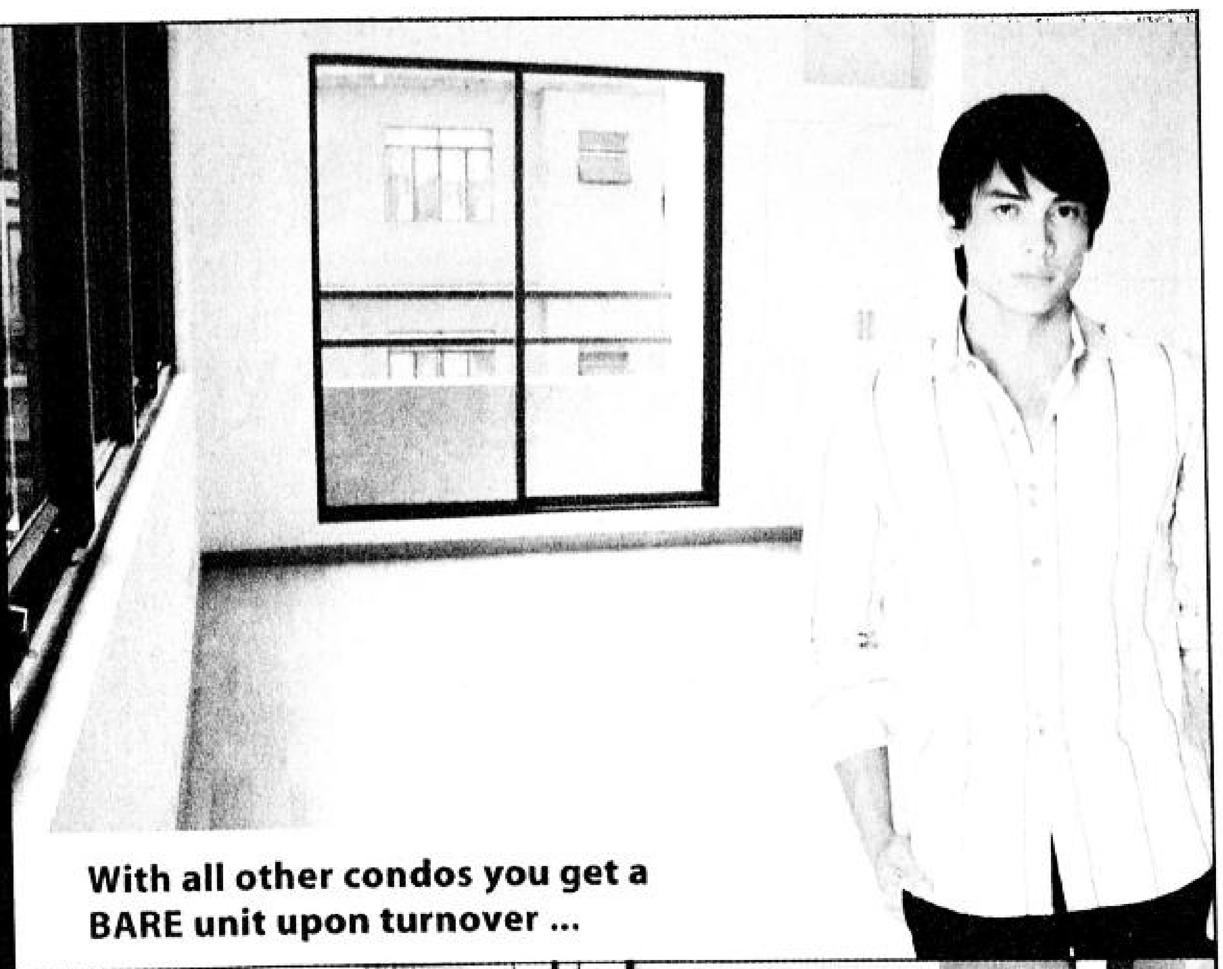

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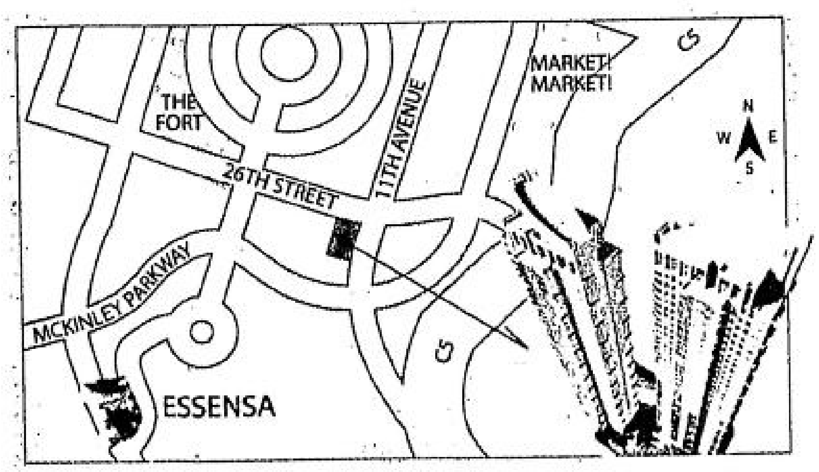
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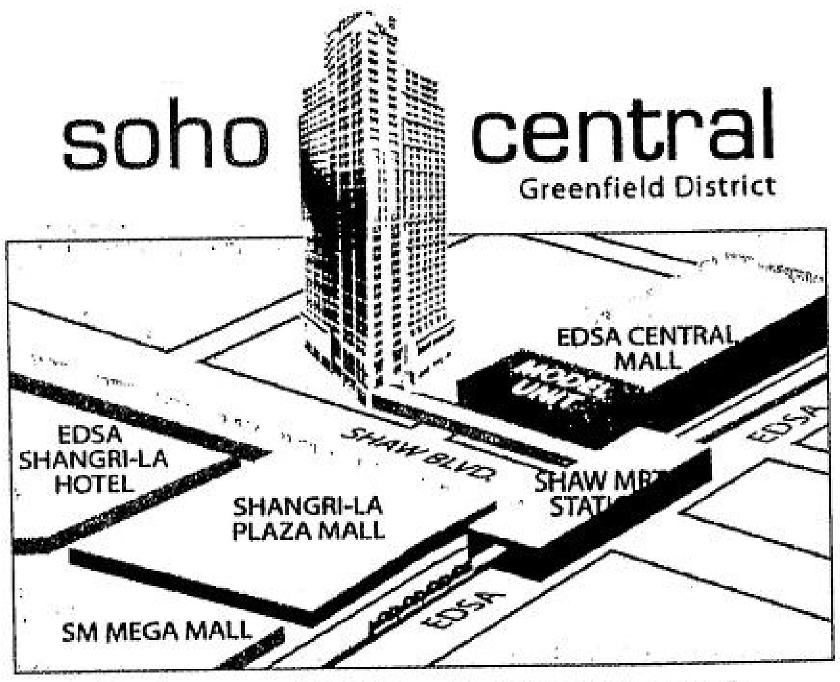
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AN overhauled Manny Pacquiao exacted revenge over Erik Morales on Saturday. REUTERS

Jaca to fight in March underneath B. Pacquiao-Hernandez rematch

Salven L. Lagumbay

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA—PHILIPPINE super featherweight champion Jimrex Jaca will be seeing action again in the United States this March.

The Sibulan, Negros Oriental fighter, a former OBBF super bantam champion, will be seeing action in the first week of March underneath the Bobby Pacquiao-Carlos Hernandez rematch.

Jaca's stock rose following his first round stoppage of Mexican journeyman Geronimo Hernandez in the undercard of the Manny Pacquiao-Erik Morales rematch last Saturday in Las Vegas.

Jaca and his manager Rex "Wakee" Salud are coming home along with Pacquiao and his entourage on Jan. 27.

"I want Jaca to get the most exposure with Manny (Pacquiao), because he sacrificed a lot for this win," said Salud yesterday.

Jaca thanked his manager for giving him a chance to fly home with Manny, adding he already misses his family.

"It's better that I come home first and then return to the US later to train," Jaca said in Cebuano.

JACA

New weapons key to victory

By Recah Trinidad

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA—THE LEFT STRAIGHT that's been remodeled into a vicious hook, a bigger and busier right hand, uppercut, new defensive moves anchored on ducking, head movement, side-to-side slips.

These didn't form the complete package but they were the core of the weapon Manny Pacquiao had kept secret in the run-up to his second duel with Erik Morales.

Pacquiao did not have to detail them, the revised arsenal was bared in full during his masterful conquest and demolition of Morales.

But the RP boxing superstar, both fists swollen, did not hesitate to confirm that his offense against Morales on Saturday night was centered on the body.

"*Marami kaming ginawa, pero ang pinaka-importante* 'yung body shots, (We did a lot of new moves, but the main thrust was to soften the body," Pacquiao said inside his fifth floor suite at the Wynn Hotel where a thanksgiving Mass was celebrated by Fr. Gerry Beof from New York yesterday morning.

"*Di ba dati puro* left straight *lang ang banat ko. Ngayon* left hook, right hook, upper at body shots. *Yun ang kanyang ininda* (I used to rely mainly on my left straight but now I have a left hook, right hook, upper and body shots. Those punches hurt him)," Pacquiao added.

Trainer Freddie Roach said they had to train behind closed doors so other people would not be talking of the changes in the Pacquiao armory and arsenal.

"What we did was take the jab away from him," Roach told the INQUIRER.

But although he had confirmed the technical changes, Roach would not openly admit the transformation of Pacquiao from a predictable, one-track slasher into a well-rounded fighter.

In that big fight against Morales on Saturday, there had been initial fears Pacquiao could be lured into a sticky tactical box-off.

However, whenever he would be caught in a fierce exchange, Pacquiao would acquit himself by outpunching Morales.

In short, that was practically a new Manny Pacquiao his fans had seen inside the ring on Saturday.

While he admitted Pacquiao has indeed undergone a style-and-system overhaul, Roach has been insisting Pacquiao will always be Pacquiao.

Obviously, Roach is again trying to hide something about the hottest property in his renowned Wild Card Gym.

Meanwhile, the doors of the Wild Card gym have again been opened to the public.

Pacquiao is scheduled to leave with wife Jinkee and members of his team on Jan. 25. They are expected in Manila Jan. 27.

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Docs say Morales is okay

LAS VEGAS—AFTER the terrible beating he received from Filipino superstar Manny Pacquiao, Mexico's Erik Morales was cleared by doctors at the Valley Medical Hospital here of any head injuries he might have suffered following his 10th-round technical knockout loss last Saturday at the Thomas and Mack Center.

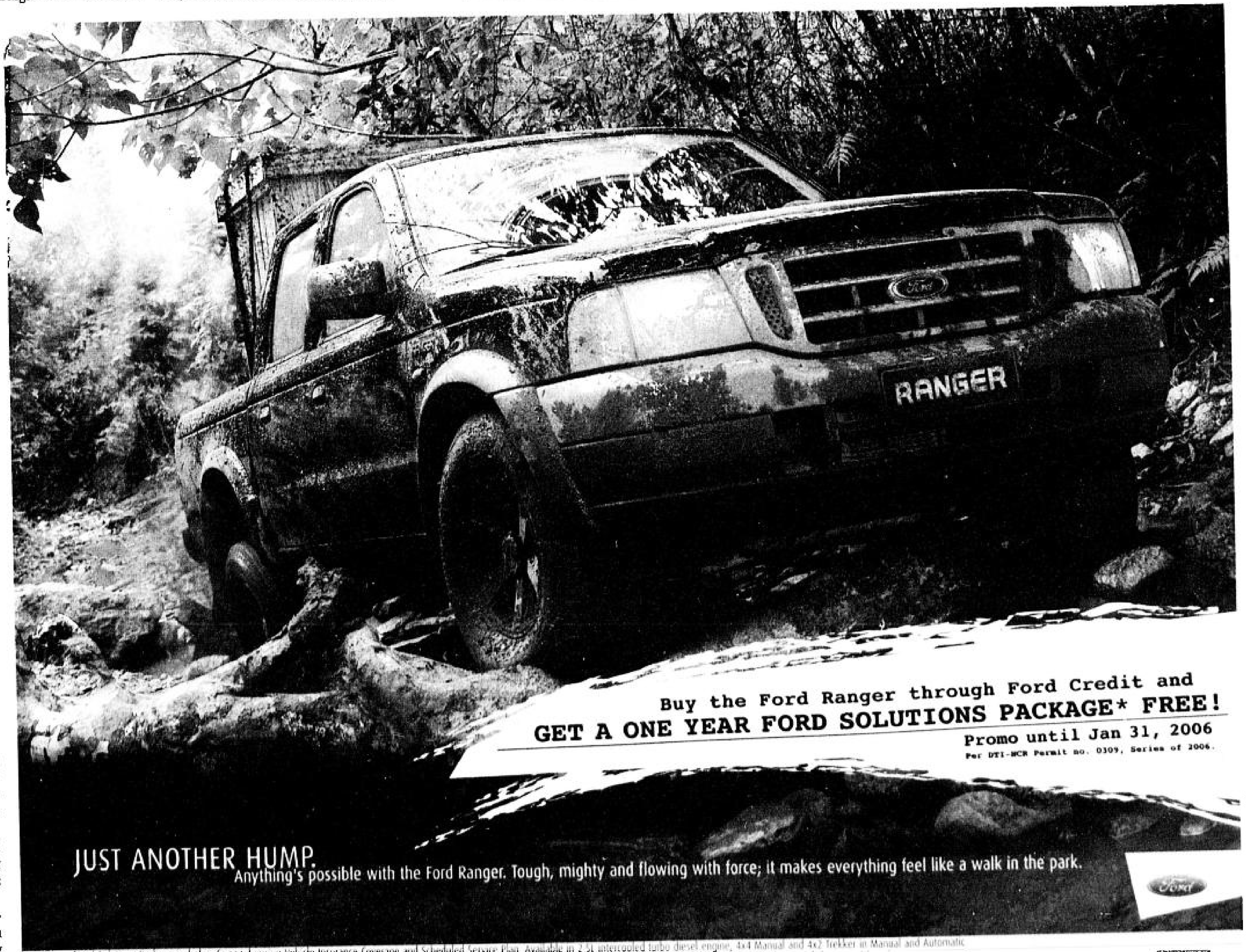
Speaking to reporters from his home in San Diego, California, where he immediately retreated following the worst defeat of his career, Morales said he had undergone a series of head tests but was subsequently cleared by physicians.

He added he would spend enough time to rest before making any announcement on his future plans.

Morales had already conferred with his promoter Bob Arum and manager Fernando Beltran and was assured of their full-suport in whatever decision he makes.

"Time will tell if and when I need to hang up my gloves," Morales told Box-latino.

Morales, accompanied by his wife Andrea Mora, who is expecting their first child next month, offered food to members of his team at their San Diego home following their return from Las Vegas. *Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor*



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Southern Ladies golf slated Feb. 2-4 at Del Monte

VILLAROMAN: Favorite

VETERAN INTERNATIONALISTS Anya Tanpinco, Lora Roberto and Carmelette Villaroman, jungolfer Crystal Superal and a host of others lead the chase for top honors in the 43rd Southern Ladies Open which fires off Feb. 2 at the Del Monte Golf Club in Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon.

Although three of the country's top amateurs are not seeing action in this year's staging of the annual event, the competing field remains tough with a three-cornered title fight looming in the centerpiece Championship Flight among Southwoods bets Tanpinco, Roberto and Villaroman.

Superal, playing out of St. Francis of Assisi College, is expected to carry the cudgels for the youth brigade in the three-day event organized and conducted by the National Golf Association of the Philippines (NGAP) and sponsored by Petron Corp., DHL Worldwide Express/WWW Express, Gopez Corp. and Hans Bruhmann Int'l Jeweler.

Last year's champion Jayvie Agojo, Fil-Aussie Frances Bondad and newly crowned RP Ladies Open titlist Debbie de Villa have begged off from participating for various reasons, leaving the battle for the crown wide open among the other mainstays of the national squad.

Aside from Manila Southwoods, other clubs competing are Alabang, Riviera, Sta. Elena, Orchard, Valley, Pueblo de Oro, Villamor, Lanang, Davao, Navy and Del Monte.

Registration is ongoing. For details, contact NGAP at 525-6987 or 524-5160 or email at ngapgolf@hotmail.com, ngapgolf@yahoo.com, and the Del Monte Golf Club at telefax (088)855-5976/6101.

Also on tap in the event, backed by hole-in-one sponsor Master Sports Corp., Philippine Sports Commission, DPC Yellow Pages and Rep. Constantino Jaraula of Cagayan de Oro are the classification tournaments featuring competitors in various divisions with fabulous prizes at stake, according to NGAP.

The other categories on tap are classes A, B, C and D and the seniors for players 55 years old and above.

Free practice round is set on Feb. 1.

UAAP verdict on La Salle case ready by February

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE COMMITTEE TASKED TO PROBE THE La Salle eligibility scandal is expected to submit its complete findings next month.

The UAAP board will convene tomorrow although league officials remain mum on the controversial case involving Archers Mark Benitez and Tim Gatchalian.

The five-man panel have reportedly been summoning key personalities from La Salle and the Department of Education (DepEd) to shed light on the cage scandal.

Suspension from the league is among the possible sanctions La Salle could face. In 1994, Adamson was suspended for a year after investigation showed that the Falcons fielded Marlou Aquino despite academic deficiencies.

La Salle revealed on October last year that Benitez and Gatchalian submitted spurious documents to gain eligibility in college.

After verifying its school records from DepEd, La Salle discovered that Benitez and Gatchalian submitted fake certificates of their Philippine Educational Placement Test, an exam taken mostly by out-of-school youths to gain entry in college.

As a result, La Salle voluntarily offered to return its 2004 championship trophy.

Weeks after the shocking announcement, La Salle submitted to the UAAP board the results of its internal investigation, which tagged Archers assistant team manager Manny Salgado and contractual statistician Raul Lacson as the team officials who helped secure the players' spurious documents. Both denied the accusations.

Thus, the league formed its own investigating committee, headed by Fr. Ermito de Sagun of the University of Santo Tomas.

Other members of the investigating body include Josie de Leon of Far Eastern University, Dr. Ricardo Matibag of host Adamson, Arlene Royo of National University and legal counsel lawyer Rene Villa.

Benitez and Gatchalian suited up in the Archers' 2004 championship run. Benitez was in La Salle's runner-up squad in the 2005 season, while Gatchalian got cut from the team last year.

Xavier Charity Bowl set

THE 3RD XAVIER CHARITY BOWL WILL BE HELD on Friday at the E-Lanes Bowling Center along Ortigas Avenue. The event is spearheaded by the Xavier School Varsity Bowling Team, in cooperation with Xavier High School Faculty and Maintenance Personnel Association (Facampa) and the High School Student Council. Proceeds of the charity event will go to the Xavier School Education Trust Fund, which provides financial assistance to deserving scholars in order to continue their education in Xavier School.

WINNERS: Denmark's Jens Eriksen (left) and his doubles partner Lundgaard Hansen celebrate after winning against Malaysia's Choong Tan Fook and Lee Wan Wah at the All England badminton championships men's doubles final in Birmingham, England. REUTERS

Routs mark baseball meet

TALAVERA, NUEVA ECIJA—TEAM MAKATI AND Palayan City outclassed their respective rivals last Sunday at the start of the 4th National All-High School baseball championship here.

The Makati batters, with Robert Seño and Julius Dacoco coming up with four hits apiece, blasted Manila-based Villegas High School, 33-2, even as Palayan City drubbed J.P. Laurel High of Manila, 30-0.

In other matches, Marikina scored a 23-2 triumph over Kalinga; Camarines Norte overwhelmed Tuguegarao, 19-0, while Bulacan dumped Cagayan, 12-6, to jumpstart their bids in the 15-team competition.

Ironically, three-time defending champion Nueva Ecija struggled before taking a 9-6 win over Isabela.

Makati, runner-up the last two years, hopes to finally snatch the title away this time in the 15-team tournament which aims to spark the resurgence of the sport in the country.

"I hope that we can be an instrument in the rebirth of baseball and softball here in the country," said Gov. Tomas Joson of the host province. "This is a sport where the Filipinos can compete globally."

The Philippines won the gold medals in baseball and men's and women's softball during the recent 23rd Southeast Asian Games. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

Morales posts another sweep

ROSARIO, BATANGAS—SHIFT RACING LEAD driver Renan Morales, tagged as the next big star of Philippine racing, swept both races in the Group 3 division recently in the Philippine National Touring Car Championship 2005.

Morales pulled away early to ensure his double victory in Rounds 7 and 8 of this event sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines (AAP).

He finished the 12-lap morning race in 33:22.957 or a far 14 seconds ahead of runner-up JP Cariño of Intelco Racing who registered a total time of 33:36.828.

With Morales ahead, attention shifted to the close battle between Miguel Lazaro of Velocity Motors-Race Fans Team and sensational newcomer Ulysses Maningding, a former slalom champion.

Lazaro's experience worked wonders in the last two laps as he took third place, just 1.414 seconds ahead of Maninding.

Peewee Mendiola of Big Chill Racing Team finished fifth while Menchie Francisco of Petron Ultron-SRA and Tok Corpuz of Velocity Motors-Race Fans-Conoco Racing Team followed sixth and seventh respectively.

Morales became even more unstoppable in the second race where he clocked 33:40.299 seconds.

Mendiola came in seven second behind for the runner-up finish while Lazaro, Maninding and Corpuz wound up the top five finishers.

Overall, Morales now holds a total of 175 points, 30 points ahead of arch rival Miguel Lazaro. Behind them is Mendiola with 142.

Menchie Francisco, the top lady driver in this event, is fourth with 82 points while Corpuz and Dominic Tan are tied for fifth with 64 points apiece.

Equally exciting was the "1st Race Fans Inc. Track Attack Challenge" race where Nico Montinola ruled the Open division over JV Colayco and Felix Perez.

NSAs need to liquidate ₱86 million

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE NATIONAL SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS STILL HAVE TO LIQUIDATE a total of P86 million they received from the Philippine Sports Commission for their Southeast Asian Games buildup last year.

Speaking on the occasion of the PSC's 16th anniversary, chair Butch Ramirez said the NSAs must submit an accounting of the money they received mostly for training expenses, uniform and allowances.

The PSC chief admitted that the agency is feeling the crunch with the Senate approving only a P28 million budget for the year, way below its P307 million request and the P250 million endorsed by 120 congressmen.

To date, some 41 NSAs have yet to clear their accounts with the PSC.

"These NSAs must work like private corporations with their own set of officers and sources of revenues," said Ramirez during a radio interview.

Ramirez, however, didn't complain about the slashed budget, but said the agency will be left with its basic mandate from President Arroyo.

"We will have to provide the national athletes with free meals, accommodation, uniforms and allowances," said Ramirez.

The PSC is set to hold its consultative meeting with the Philippine Olympic Committee on Friday to draft their plans for the 2006.

Topping the agenda is the country's campaign in the Doha Asian Games late this year.

JP CARIÑO tries to keep his grip of the lead while Ulysses Maninding (red Explorer car) tries to keep pace in Round 8 of the Philippine National Touring Car Championship 2005 in Batangas.

SPORTSWATCH

Red Horse-PCSO Drag Racing

THE COUNTRY'S SPEED MASTERS RETURN FOR ANOTHER SHOWDOWN AS the 2005 Red Horse-PCSO National Drag Racing Championship Series resumes with its third and penultimate leg on Jan. 28 at the BRC Drag Strip in Rosario, Batangas. Sonny de Torres of Group N-Matonetics Racing guns for a third straight victory as he looks forward to another record-breaking run in this event held in cooperation with the Automobile Association of the Philippines (AAP). The 36-year-old De Torres set the track record of 12.034 seconds in the kickoff leg and broke into the 11-second barrier when he registered the new record time of 11.912 seconds in his Quick 8 face-off with Walter Pazon of Blanche Racing. Another highlight of the event is the brewing rivalry between the Group N-Matonetics Racing and the Blanche Racing teams which dominated the past two legs, according to BRC Drag Racing Director Fil Gulfin. Also at stake are the titles in the Pro class (for cars 13.99 seconds and faster), Sportsman Class (14 seconds to 15.99), Hot Street division (16 seconds and slower) and the Thunder Class for old model cars 1983 and earlier. Contact BRC manager Sherwin Mojica or Nelson Gayola at (632) 817-2241, 729-5365 or fax 815-1241 for details.

La Salle-Dasma spikers post 2 wins

DEFENDING CHAMPION LA SALLE-DASMARINAS SCORED VICTORIES IN THE men's and women's divisions of the National Capital Region Athletic Association (NCRAA) Volleyball Tournament at the San Andres gym. The DLSU-Dasma Patriots turned back City Colleges of Manila, 25-7, 25-20, 25-8, and the Lady Patriots waylaid Philippine Maritime Institute, 25-13, 25-13, 25-10. Last week, the Patriots beat Philippine Maritime Institute, 25-14, 25-21, 25-15. Meanwhile, PMI bounced back by beating winless Emilio Aguinaldo College, 25-21, 25-20, 25-19. Asian College of Science and Technology outplayed Arellano University, 25-22, 25-15, 25-21, in the other women's match. In other games last week, St. Francis of Assisi won over EAC, 25-15, 25-18, 25-15, while PATTS College of Aeronautics trounced Olivarez College, 28-30, 25-23, 25-23, 25-18, and National College of Business and Arts walloped CCM, 25-20, 25-10, 25-13. In the distaff side, PMI bested PSBA, 25-9, 25-11, 25-22, and Olivarez College edged CCM, 25-14, 22-25,25-12, 25-12.

GCAP hosts 5-cocker tomorrow

FIVE AMERICAN COOKERS HAVE SUBMITTED THEIR ENTRIES TO THE GENtlemen Cookers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 5-cock derby tomorrow Jan. 25 at the San Juan Coliseum. The event will be sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. The foreigners, who also competed in the NCA World Championship Derby last week, are led by famous Sweater specialist Bruce Barnette, Jim Batiea of Sunset Recreational Club, Bryan Cochran, Jason Campbell and Crow Grave. "Cockfight aficionados can again expect a tough battle between local and international cockers," said GCAP stalwart Patrick Antonio. Last week, the entry of R. Pineda (RQP SJC 2) emerged as solo champion in the NCA World Championship 8-cock derby. William Go and Nene Abello (Gold Cup Sundance) were runners-up. For inquiries, contact 722-7366 and 725-5369.

A reformatted Pacquiao won

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

WELL, WHAT CAN I SAY?

You must have heard everything that needed to be heard about how our Manny Pacquiao defeated Erik Morales.

But for whatever its worth, I say, no, Pacquiao just didn't defeat Morales on a day when virtually the entire archipelago appeared like a ghost town while the fight was on. Pacquiao destroyed the supposedly indestructible Morales, period.

Remember what Morales said before the fight?

"Pacquiao never hurt me the first time we fought," bragged Morales, who beat Pacquiao by a unanimous decision on March 19, 2005.

After their brawl last Sunday, Morales must have regretted having said that.

But that's going ahead of the story.

In their first encounter, Pacquiao fought with practically one good eye in the last seven rounds. The culprit was a Morales head butt in the fifth, which opened a deep wound on the right eyebrow of Pacquiao. Blood spurted from the cut from the fifth onwards, impairing Pacquiao's vision—and focus—the rest of the way. Credit it to Pacquiao's courage and fortitude that he was able to go the distance. Although he lost by a unanimous decision, the scores were close.

On Jan. 22 (Manila time), their second meeting was a complete reversal of the first.

Ten months after their first fight, Morales would discover, to his horror I believe, a totally different Pacquiao.

This Sunday, an incredibly reformatted, repackaged and reconditioned Pacquiao was all over Morales like an endless swarm of bees, stinging him with piercing body shots and jarring shots to the face.

In their first meeting, Morales had mostly run and was able to hide since, as I've said, Pacquiao had only one good eye from the fifth; the other one was mostly bathed in blood from the fifth onwards.

Last Sunday—in fairness to Morales—the Mexican ran only once: in the 9th, toward the end of it to be exact.

But he ran because it was evident he had had enough of the punishment being incessantly inflicted on him.

Morales' end came via a rain of punches in the 10th. They were punches still as crisp as when the tireless Pacquiao unleashed them in many of the previous rounds without let-up.

Twice Morales fell to his knees in the 10th, body aching all over, face so totally rearranged that his well chiseled nose had suddenly become, in the words of writer Sol Juvida, like "a Purefoods jumbo hotdog."

The first time Morales fell in the 10th, he rose at the count of 9.

The second time Morales fell in the 10th, referee Kenny Bayless did away with the counting and declared the Mexican loser by a technical knockout with 27 ticks left in the round.

So badly beaten, thoroughly battered, was Morales that he needed to be taken straight to the hospital after the fight.

To be honest, Morales did hit Pacquiao with good punches, too. But none was strong enough to put away Pacquiao, who was made of granite in this fight that earned him $2 million as against the $3 million of Morales.

But no, although Morales had been so thoroughly demolished to suffer only his fourth defeat against 48 wins—34 by KOs—retirement is, should be, farthest from the Mexican's mind. A third fight will be a sure blockbuster since it will decide who's really who between the two of them. A third fight will be a sure blockbuster as the winner will earn him a shorter route to the Hall of Fame. More importantly, it will most likely be the megabuck fight that can make Pacquiao the wealthiest Asian boxer ever.

With Pacquiao's drawing power now secured, Pacquiao pocketing $5 million—maybe more—in their third fight isn't far-fetched. Morales will be lucky to pocket $3 million. If Pacquiao is smart in the ring, he's even smarter off it.

In parting, I did say here before Sunday's fight that Pacquiao could win in 6 rounds or less. I was wrong. Predicting really is as difficult a business as picking the winning numbers in the lotto.

But I did say here, too, that if a Pacquiao punch would connect, Morales would fall.

Next case, your honor.

***

FASTBREAK. The remains of Leonila R. Soriano, the wife of the first cousin of my departed mother, will be laid to rest tomorrow (Jan. 25) at the Manila Memorial Park in Marikina after the 8 a.m. Mass at the Arlington along Araneta Ave., Q.C. She was the wife of Tio Cesar and mother of Libay.

***

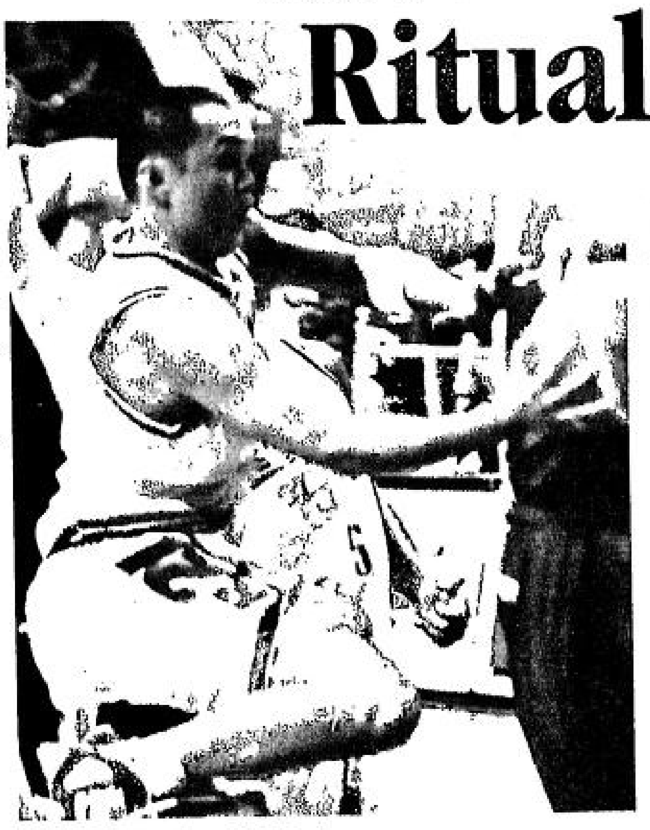
Comments to menju@p

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Stingray (6), Kaligatan (4), Silent Operator (2), Red Hot Water (1).
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Doña Nene/Santiago (8), Don Peri Gold (3), Centerfold (5), High Spirit (4).
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Samaham (3), Jajie (1), Maximus (6), Magic Ewan Ko (9).
Race 4—(Penta/Tri)—Bundok Peninsula (8), Gone With The Wind (2), Remus (3), Paminsanminsan (1), Kay Akino (4).
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Playing Cool (3), Kalashnokov/Magic Bullet (4), Olei Olei Olei (7), Brazen Truth (2).
Race 6—(Penta/Tri)—Karma (8), Sound of Silence (2), Lucky Joe (3), One Vision (7), Interceptor (11).
Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Seeing Red (8), Desert Breeze (6), Half Medium (2), Caroline Belle (5).
Race 8—(Penta/Tri)—Joker (8), Harrod's Magic (9), Eye Candy (2), Western Legend (1), Gemstone (3).
Race 9—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Worth U While (14), Drink N Drink (3), Take A Strike (6), Heart Of Jonna (4), King Size (5), Simply Gold (11).

Ritualo named player of the week



RITUALO: Vital to Air21's rise.

By June Navarro

WATCHING RENREN RITUALO DRAIN THREE-POINTERS WITH EASE on a regular day is nothing unusual.

But doing it consistently in a long quarterfinal series, where the stakes are high, is definitely out of the ordinary.

Ritualo showed just how deadly his shooting touch can be in Air21's best-of-five quarterfinal conquest of Talk 'N Text that ushered his team to its first ever semifinal appearance in the Philippine Basketball Association.

Not to take away anything from the heroic deeds of Ronald Tubid, Gary David, Shawn Daniels, Wynne Arboleda, Ranidel De Ocampo and Yancy De Ocampo but Ritualo's outstanding plays set him apart from the rest.

As the leading scorer in the quarterfinals among all players, the former De La Salle University rifleman was named the San Mig Coffee-PBA Press Corps Player of the Week.

"I always make sure to be in shape whenever I enter the court," said Ritualo, who jacked up his numbers from an average of 17.4 points in the elimination round to 23 points per game in the quarterfinals.

Since entering the league in 2002, this is the only time the Bert Lina-owned ballclub had made it into the semifinals and, win or lose, will end up with its best finish in a regular conference with Bo Perasol as head coach.

The only active franchise still in search of a first PBA championship, Air21 might be well on its way to achieving a feat in its history should the Express hurdle the Purefoods Chunkee Giants in their best-of-seven semifinal series.

With coach Ryan Gregorio drawing up the battle plan, the Giants snared Game 1 Sunday night but not after getting a scare from the Express, who eventually lost, 94-89, only when fatigue told on them in the final quarter. Ritualo improved to No. 2 in scoring among locals with 18.5 points per game, next to the 19.1 ppg of Barangay Ginebra's Marc Caguioa.

GAB sets probe on Air21 plaint

GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS BOARD OFFIcer Jess Villanueva said yesterday the board will act on the complaint of the Air21 Express regarding the conduct of Purefoods Chunkee Giants Marquin Chandler during Game 1 of their semifinal series in the PBA Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum Sunday night. Villanueva said that Air21 team manager Lito Alvarez was asking the GAB on what possible sanctions it can impose on Chandler, who violently grappled Express player Gary David to the point of choking the Air21 guard with 2:10 left in the third quarter. The commotion was triggered when David stole the ball away from Chandler with their legs being entangled.

PBF willing to do all for basketball

By Musong R. Castillo

THE PHILIPPINE BASKETBALL FEDERATION is willing to do anything to serve the best interest of the sport in the country.

Officers of the PBF gave this assurance to Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco after their meeting yesterday, according to POC spokesman and PBF incorporator Joey Romasanta.

"It (the meeting) went well. There was no animosity in the group," said Romasanta. "Right now, the PBF knows that it is still the body recognized by the POC, but it is willing to do anything to serve the best interest of basketball (in the country)."

Cojuangco met with officials the PBA, PBL, UAAP, National Collegiate Athletic Association and Basketball Association of the Philippines president Joey Lina last week in line with a Memorandum of Agreement forged between the Fiba and the POC regarding the formation of a new cage body.

"The (former) congressman talked to all the stakeholders just to inform them of what is happening. It's better that they hear it straight from him," Romasanta said.

The PBF, formed after the BAP was suspended and eventually expelled from the local Olympic movement, will cease to enjoy POC recognition once the new body is formed and approved by the Fiba.

Meanwhile, a high-ranking POC official wondered if Lina had come to that meeting last week ready to smoke the peace pipe.

The official, who requested that he not be identified, told the INQUIRER that he just can't figure out why Lina has not instructed the BAP to "withdraw the lawsuit it filed" several months back.

The BAP had sued the POC, seeking reinstatement in a last-ditch effort to stage the sport in the Southeast Asian Games. The court upheld BAP's case but the BAP never got to stage basketball in the SEA Games anyway.

Ateneo bets make move at Highlands

ATENEO MADE A BOLD MOVE TO DENY LA Salle's sweep bid by surging ahead in the college and grade schools divisions in the first round Sunday of the sixth Samsung Interscholastic golf championships at the Tagaytay Highlands Golf and Country Club course.

Raymond Escalona scored a day-best 52 points, Don Padilla carded 45 and either of the 44s of Vendric Tan and Kevin Lachica counted as the third score of Ateneo, which posted a 141 for an eight-point lead over La Salle's two teams in college division play.

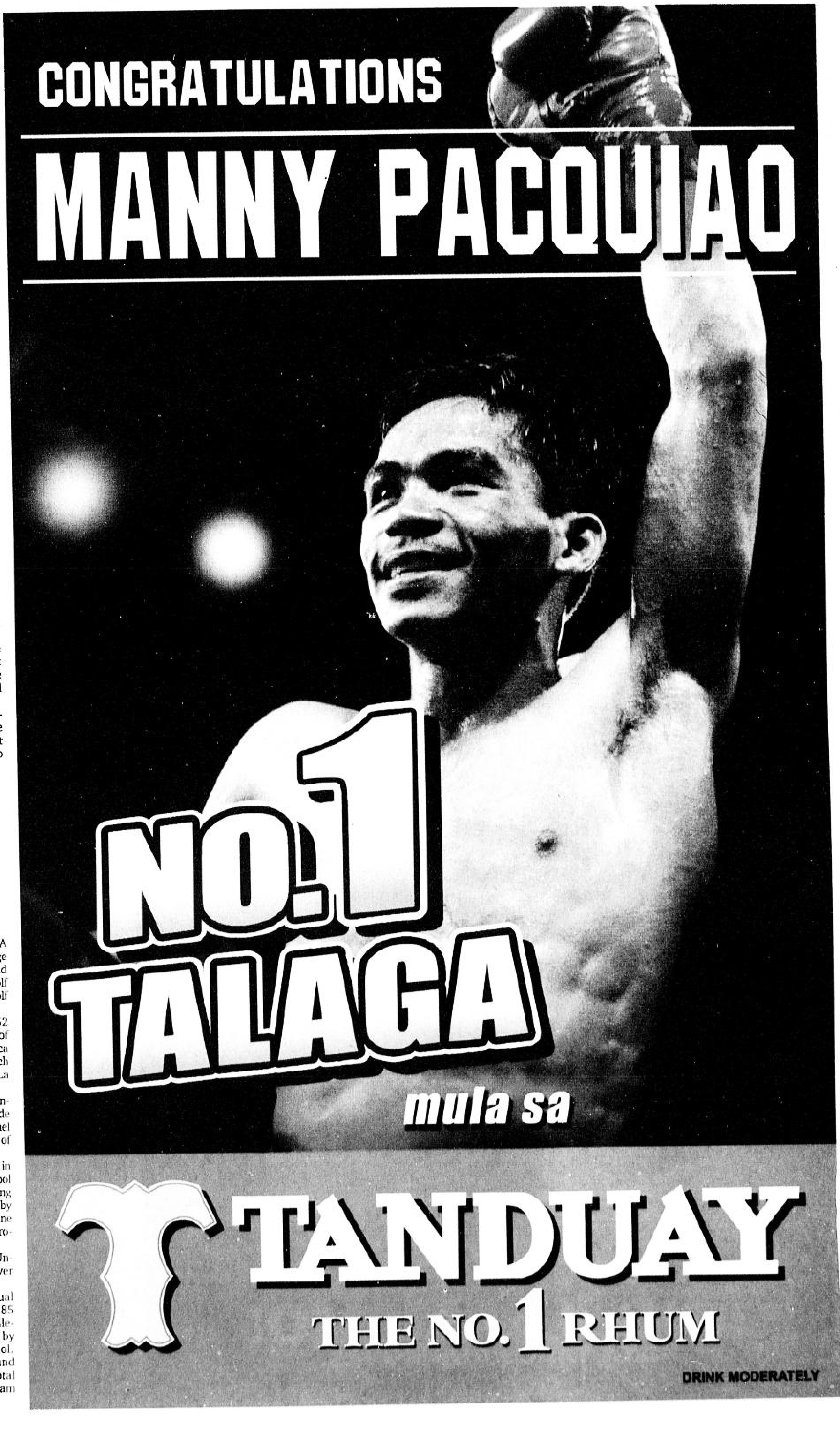
With Marcel Puyat firing 49, Ateneo also managed to inch ahead by two over La Salle in grade school action. Bino dela Paz tallied 40 and Rafael Vera Cruz contributed 32 to boost the cause of Ateneo (121) against La Salle.

La Salle, however, managed to grab the lead in the girls college-high school and boys high school categories of the tourney backed by Samsung Electronics Philippines, Inc. and co-sponsored by Tokyo Tokyo, KZG, Microtel, Srixon, Philippine Airlines as the official carrier, Sunbolt, Rudy Project, C-Lium Fiber and Sports Plus.

Poveda's Paulina Sotto (42) and Andie Unson (37) opened up a six-point spread over Master's Cademy in the girls grade school.

Miko Yee, last year's overall individual champion, and Marco Olives combined for 85 points and Alan Guy added 43 as La Salle-Greenhills totaled 138 to zoom ahead by eight over OB Montessori in boys high school.

Geleen Handog was good for 46 points and Kim Hong had 40 for La Salle-Taft's 86 total that pushed them ahead by six over Miriam and by nine over Ateneo.



SPORTS

Hot Bryant

Total vs Raptors 2nd in NBA all-time list

81

LOS ANGELES—KOBE BRYANT scored a stunning 81 points—the second most in National Basketball Association history—in the Los Angeles Lakers' 122-104 victory over Toronto on Sunday.

Only Wilt Chamberlain's 100 points, for Philadelphia against New York on March 2, 1962, now tops the 27-year-old Bryant, whose previous personal scoring best was 62 points against Dallas on December 20—when he played only three quarters.

"Not even in my dreams," Bryant said of his aspirations to such a feat.

He scored 26 points in the first half then erupted for 55 in the second—four short of Chamberlain's record for points in a half.

With just under five minutes left and the Lakers leading, 108-96, Bryant knocked down a 3-pointer to join Chamberlain, former Laker Elgin Baylor, David Thompson and David Robinson in the 70-point club—a milestone Michael Jordan never reached.

Bryant drilled a short jumper on the ensuing possession to break Baylor's Lakers record of 71 points established against the Knicks on Nov. 15, 1960.

After making a layup with 3:26 remaining to reach 74 points, Bryant scored his last seven from the free-throw line. He sank a pair of free throws with 43 seconds left to complete his magical performance and exited to a huge ovation from the crowd of 18,997 at Staples Center with 4.2 seconds to go.

Bryant, whose 51-point effort against Sacramento on Thursdsay went for nothing in a 118-109 Lakers loss to the Kings, said he was playing for the win. *AFP*

COMPLETE NBA RESULTS: Denver 89, San Antonio 85; Philadelphia 86, Minnesota 84; Memphis 93, Washington 82; LA Clippers 105, Golden State 92; Miami 119, Sacramento 99; Detroit 99, Houston 97; Seattle 152, Phoenix 149, 2OT; Dallas 95, Portland 89, OT.

KOBE Bryant's statline in his 81-point explosion read: Minutes played—41:56; Field goals—28 of 46; 3-pointers—7 of 13; Free throws—18 of 20; Rebounds—(offensive/defensive) 2/4; Assists—2; Turnovers—3; Steals—3; Personal fouls—1 AP

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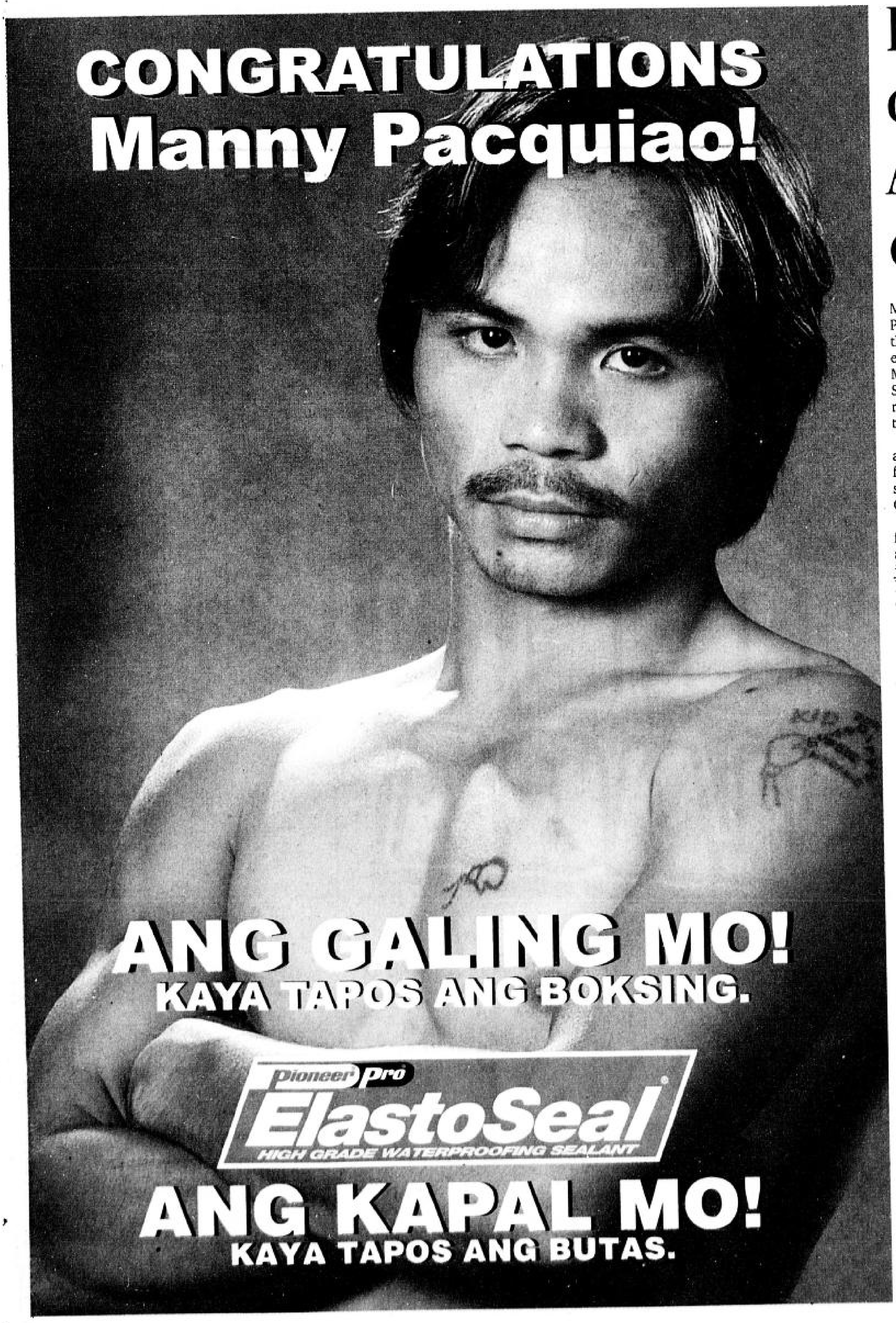

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Hingis flashes old form, gains Aussie Open quarterfinals

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA—Proving that power isn't everything, Martina Hingis took another step on the comeback trail Monday, beating Australia's Samantha Stosur, 6-1, 7-6 (8), to reach the Australian Open quarterfinals.

Hingis, coming out of retirement after three years, converted on her fourth match point, showing the same savvy that she used to win five Grand Slam titles.

The 25-year-old Swiss star next faces her biggest challenge so far against second-seeded Kim Clijsters, who has spent nearly all of her off-court time getting worked on by the trainers.

Clijsters showed no signs of the back and hip pain that has bothered her for the last week as she beat 15th-seeded Francesca Schiavone of Italy for a 7-6 (5), 6-4 victory.

Hingis blunted Stosur's strong ground strokes with an often-stunning blend of perfectly placed baseline shots, crisp volleys and soft drops that had the Australian dashing to the net for a pickup only to see the next shot lobbing over her head.

"I started off very well, I knew that I had to be right there from the start—we both probably were very nervous," said Hingis. "I knew I couldn't give her any momentum."

Fifth-seeded Nikolay Davydenko rallied from two sets and a break down to reach the men's quarterfinals and snap Dominik Hrbaty's run of five-set wins with a 4-6, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2, 6-3 victory.

HINGIS: Still savvy REUTERS

No. 21 Nicolas Kiefer had a 7-6 (4), 6-3, 6-3 win over Juan Ignacio Chela and next plays Sebastien Grosjean, a 7-5, 6-2, 6-2 winner over Paul-Henri Mathieu.

WTA Championship winner Amelie Mauresmo cruised into the quarterfinals, committing only two unforced errors in a 6-1, 6-1 victory over 16-year-old Nicole Vaidisova.

Mauresmo next plays Patty Schnyder, who beat 2004 French Open champion Anastasia Myskina 6-2, 6-1 in 55 minutes. *AP*

Seattle in Super Bowl

SEATTLE—WITH THEIR MVP back in business, a fierce defense and all the comforts of playing at home, the Seattle Seahawks had everything they needed to get to their first Super Bowl.

And they did, easily.

Shaun Alexander came back from last week's concussion to rush for a team playoff-record 132 yards and two touchdowns Sunday, and Seattle pressured Carolina stars Jake Delhomme and Steve Smith into oblivion in a 34-14 rout for the NFC championship.

The Seahawks picked off three passes in winning their 12th straight home game and shattering the fifth-seeded Panthers' stunning postseason road run.

"We have an unbelievable team, an unbelievable group of fans," Alexander said. "I get knocked out and guys step up. One guy goes down and another guy steps up."

The NFC's best team during the season, the Seahawks (15-3) will face yet another wild card, the Pittsburgh Steelers, in the Super Bowl in Detroit on Feb. 5. Pittsburgh beat Denver 34-17 earlier in the day. *AP*

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As long as you love them

Backstreet Boys had local fans shrieking, screaming and singing along for a full hour and a half

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

REVIEW

ALL THAT SCREECHING could have crashed the Big Dome's ceiling.

Some 10,000 people spent an hour and a half withstanding the high-decibel screams of fans who watched the Backstreet Boys (BSB) in concert Friday night at the Araneta Colisuem.

BSB, recognized as the biggest-selling and most popular "boy band" in history, was obviously loved and admired by a predominantly female fan base, who were adolescents when BSB hit international fame 10 years ago.

The non-stop shrieks that echoed throughout the gig was understandable; it was only the second time Filipino fans caught sight of the American dance-pop singing quintet in the flesh—never mind if Nick Carter looked 30 pounds overweight.

Struggling to keep in synch with the group's snappy choreography, Carter was easily the most applauded, even as the rest elicited their own share of audience idolatry. AJ McLean, who earned the group's sympathy a few years ago for going on voluntary drug rehab, was now the most athletic, running and flexing his toned limbs all over the stage while ably fulfilling his solo vocal parts.

The others were no less engaging. Howie Dorough cut the most dashing figure every time he took center stage. Brian Littrell, who handled most of the singing parts with high notes, exuded confidence even if he was the shortest guy in the group. Kevin Richardson, the tallest, stood out while playing on a baby grand piano.

Wild, ecstatic

All these moments were marked with screams that bordered on the wild and ecstatic, even as BSB came out trotting in attire so down and dirty casual like street bums and muggers. OK, good-looking street bums and charming muggers.

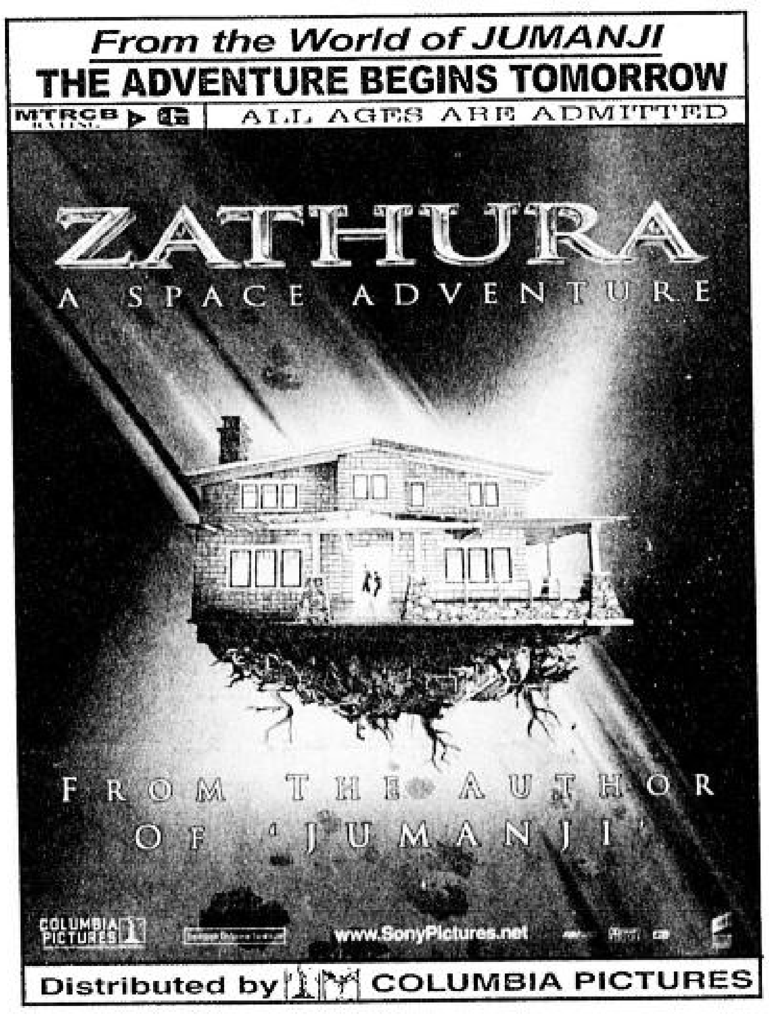
Boy band mania has long disintegrated in the United States, so why do the Boys remain such darlings to the local crowd? What's so outstanding anyway with BSB songs that reek of saccharine mush?

The only logical explanation is that most of these songs, expertly crafted by studio songwriters and producers with an ear for teen appeal, hit the mark with a slice of the generation that came of age at the height of grunge and hard rock in the 1990s.

Is it right to surmise that those who grew up worshipping BSB preferred the simple joys elicited by "As Long As You Love Me" and "Quit Playing Games (With My Heart)"—as opposed to the complicated emotions in, say, Nirvana's "Smells Like Teen Spirit"?

Or is it just a terrible case of missing out on the action, since the Backstreet Boys first visited the Philippines then as virtual unknowns, only to capture legions of fans first in Canada and Europe, before America followed suit?

However which way we look, the adulation was so infectious that it got us to sing along to tunes we used to consider too lame to be part of our lives.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4 (DOLBY) UNDERWORLD-2

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) UNDERWORLD-2
2 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 JARHEAD
5 UNANG TIKIM

starmall EDSA SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
5 UNDERWORLD 2

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 SHAKE RATTLE & ROLL
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 UNDERWORLD-2
2 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994
1 UNANG TIKIM
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4 UNDERWORLD-2

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

THEATRES
NE Pacific Mall Cabanatuan
Telephone No. (044) 600-3025
1 THE FOG
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 BLUE MOON

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) BLUE MOON
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 (DTS EX) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4 IN HER SHOES

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
2 BLUE MOON
3 (DOLBY) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4 (DTS) IN HER SHOES

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-6271
1 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
2 IN HER SHOES
3 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4 JUST LIKE HEAVEN

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
2 BLUE MOON
3 (DOLBY) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4 (DTS) IN HER SHOES

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 BLUE MOON
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 KUTOB
2 MULAWIN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) KING KONG
2 MOURNING GIRLS
3 UNANG TIKIM
4 (DTS) SHAKE RATTLE & ROLL

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 MOURNING GIRLS
3 (DTS) BLUE MOON
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
5 UNANG TIKIM

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
2 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
3 FAMILY STONE
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 BLOODFISH

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LOVE TEAM Real-life sweethearts Nyoy Volante and Nina star in a pre-Valentine show titled "El Niño-La Niña" on Feb. 3 and 4, 9 p.m. at the Music Museum. Their guarantee that the show is worth watching? "We are in love." Call 656-0887.

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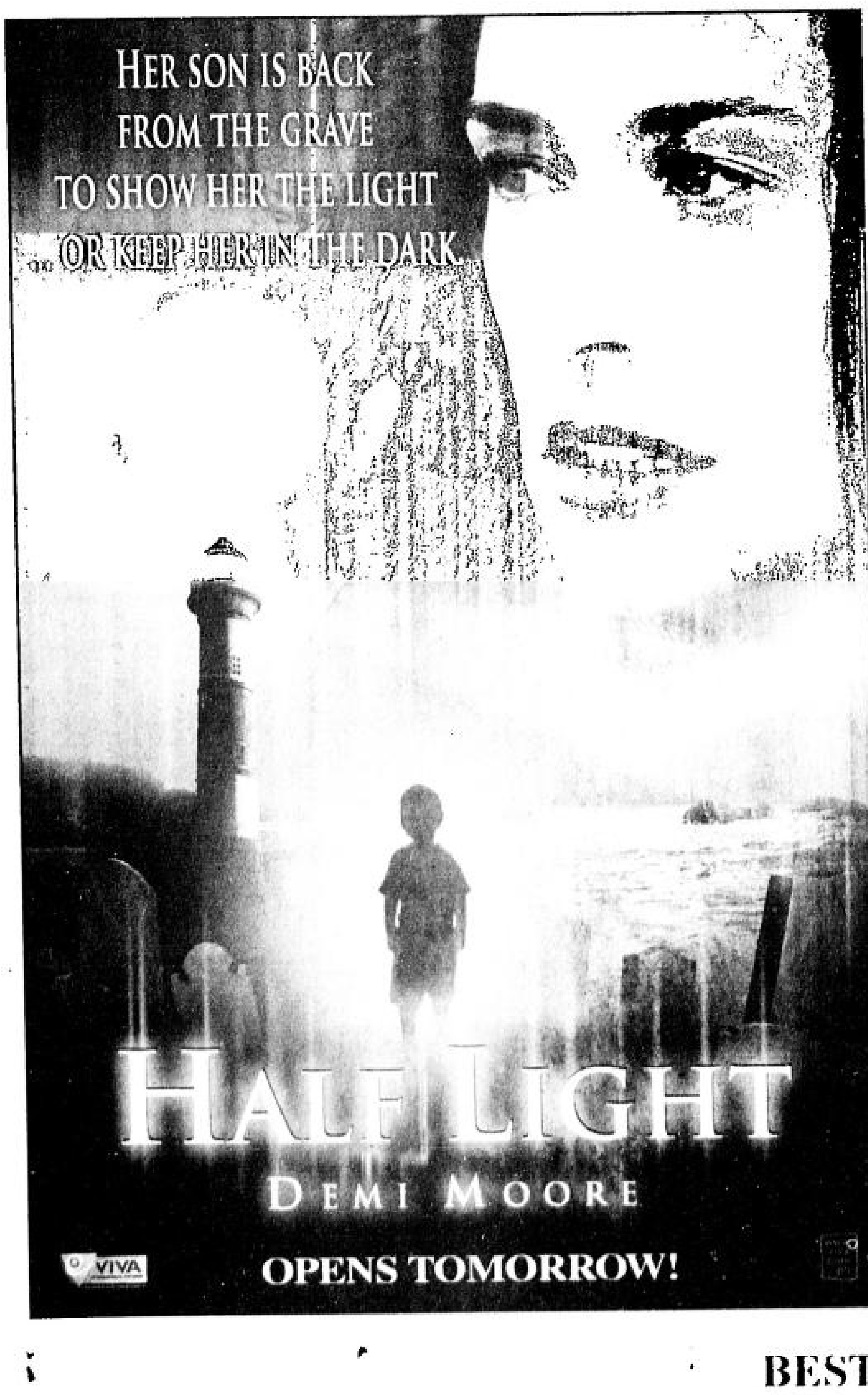
HER SON IS BACK FROM THE GRAVE TO SHOW HER THE LIGHT OR KEEP HER IN THE DARK
HALF LIGHT
DEMI MOORE
VIVA
OPENS TOMORROW!

Intermediate step for Cinemalay

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

LAST YEAR, THE FIRST CINE-Malaya alternative filmfest's full-length digital category's script competition had only three steps: submitted storylines were trimmed down to 30 semi-finalists, which were expanded to full screenplays, which were further trimmed down to 10 winners, which were each given a production grant of P500,000.

This year, an intermediate step has been added. Instead of naming the 10 winners right off, the members of the festival's selection committee have thought it best to first choose 15, the writers of which have been given notes on how to further improve on their screenplays.

The revised scripts will be submitted on Jan. 31, and the selection of the final 10 will be announced by Feb. 15.

Why the additional step? The members of the screening committee felt that quite a number of the 34 semifinalist scripts this year had good potential, but it wasn't all that strongly developed in the first-draft screenplays.

The two-week rewriting period, in consultation with members of the screening committee, is meant to enhance that development, so that the 10 winners shall more clearly manifest themselves.

This is additional work for the screening committee, but the objective of raising the 2006 festival's level of achievement makes it worthwhile.

The festival organizers feel strongly about this, because the first Cinemalaya filmfest set a high standard that this year's follow-up edition should strive mightily to at least match.

Of the nine Cinemalaya movies that made it to the screen last year, analysts generally believe that five were exceptional productions. That's a high batting average for festivals for new filmmakers.

One of the entries, "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros," even won awards abroad, and is the first Filipino movie to compete in the prestigious Sundance filmfest in the United States.

In addition, some of the new filmmakers showcased in last year's Cinemalaya festival have been given follow-up projects that have given their careers an additional boost.

Since it isn't easy for a new talent to get to make a full-length movie in these parts, the entry point provided by Cinemalaya is an important factor in energizing our cinematic talent pool, and getting the film industry out of the deep rut it's in.

So, we congratulate the 2006 Cinemalaya's 15 semifinalists, and urge them to give their second drafts everything they've got.

All best to **Nick Joseph Olanka** ("Ang Huling Araw ng Linggo"), **Dado Lumibao** ("Ang Ngipin ni Doreen"), **Adolf Alix, Jr.** ("Donsol"), **Ron Bryant** ("Isang Ikot ng Mundo"), **Cenon Palomares** ("Kusina"), **Chie Floresca** ("Kwerdas");

Khavn dela Cruz ("Larombata"), **Arah Jell Badayos** ("Lima, Ang Kakaibang Triangulo"), **Jose Abelardo Tam** ("Manila Day-Off") **Domingo Lazam, III** ("Mga Anino sa Apuhap"), **Vic Aceddilo, Jr.** ("Sa Paang Palay");

Florida Bautista ("Si Pisot"), **Cesar Hernando** ("Taglagas at Tagsibol sa Panahon ng Sumpa"), **Michael Sandejas** ("Tulad ng Dati"), and **Paolo Dy** ("White Linen").

Radha at Mugen

SOUL singer Radha packs Mugen Bar (Metrowalk Complex, Ortigas Center) every Thursday night. Her show
Half features a d
that combines R
soul music. Cat
gen on Jan. 19 a
4089.

'Halina't Mag

ALPHA Music ha
na't Magsaya K
Cleo," a child-fri
taining the origi
of a pre-school s
Cleo.

She has comp
ful songs, incl
Na," "Tayo'y
"Bola Ko'y
Magkaibigan"
Manggagawa."
bonus, the albu
nus-one version

Teacher Cle
Valera, a profes
garten teacher a
Normal Universi

New animate

2005 saw the rel
imated features,
are currently in
tention for the fi
tion Oscar. Even
ner is chosen,
bumper crop of
serving notice t
an even better y

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MOVIEWORLD

Belo

YOU OFTEN HEAR CELEBRI
Vicki belo" on TV. To the ordi
like a perfunctory gesture. B
her star clients and I do, you
yond the beauty treatment
genuine friendship that we a
non-show biz clients and sta
That's why I want to give my
through this column. It's the
for her friendship which is li

Vicki's birthday (Jan. 25)
Christmas Day. It figures! Bec
is over, this woman keeps giv
about the material gifts but
extra mile for you ... she's nev
she listens with her heart ... s
bearable ... she gives you her

My angel

I will never forget the time
on earth because she felt
how devastated I was after
my mom passed away. I get goose bumps every time I remember how my mom made her presence felt during our entire stay in that place. No doubt it was my mom's way of telling me that she had handpicked Vicki to be my wingless angel now that she's up there with the other angels.

Stars' tales

Here are some more wonderful anecdotes about that "Belo" touch

Albert Martinez: "During the shooting of 'Captain Barbell,' I accidentally ingeste
US that time but when she
her staff to see if I had the be
thing. I was so touched!"

Tin-Tin Bersola-Babao: "
makes it a point to be there
tuned to me no matter how
her concern. I feel so blessed
cause I know for sure that
during the baptism, then

Phoemela Baranda: "Vick
the morning before she com
Pilipinas" she's so bubbly. I
makeup she's a really beaut

Pia Guanio: "Vicki surpris
casion. *Ka-aliw*, she alway
says she loves my legs. I shou

Mark Herras: "I thought I
'Starstruck.' But I felt even
looks out for me like a son."

If there's anybody who k
childhood bosom friend Lian
is compassionate toward th
erybody to be happy. When
appointment for that friend
care of everything."

That's just a handful of the
could go on and on but this
cient. Actually Vicki "hates"
birthday. I know she will forg
on her. You know what it's
over with gratitude and you
world? That's exactly how I
ter" so I couldn't help writing

If only the Belo clinic coul
bled world needs more wom
Me Mucho?" She's a born g
good mood when He create
her heart!

Happy, happy birthday. "S
changing my world for the be
me. Te amo, Belo!

Personal

Happy Fiesta to the reside
celebrating 'Kasaysayang
dance festival. Kudos to the
Tanjuatco, and his charming
"*buhay na buhay!*"

(E-mail wateringholes

a 2006

vith Time and a
stinct repertoire
B with jazz and
Radha at Mu-
d 26. Call 637-

aya'

released "Hali-
ama si Teacher
ndly album con-
al compositions
ecialist, Teacher

sed 20 delight-
ding "Kamusta
Mag-ehersisyo,"
ilog," "Tayo'y
nd "Kaibigang
As an add-on
n contains mi-
of the songs.
. is **Leonora**
or and kinder-
t the Philippine
y.

l features

ase of many an-
some of which
reliminary con-
m year's anima-
before the win-
owever, a fresh
2006 releases is
at this could be
r for animation
buffs.

Get a load of these delightful treats:

In "Cars," Lightning McQueen (voiced by **Owen Wilson**), a hot-shot rookie race car, discovers that life is about the journey, not the finish line.

"Ice Age 2: The Meltdown" finds Diego (the saber-toothed tiger), Manny (the woolly mammoth) and Sid (the sloth) when the ice starts to melt and threatens to destroy their valley. Together, they warn everyone about the situation and face the consequences of post-ice age global warming.

"Bambi and the Great Prince." The untold chapter from Bambi's childhood and the father he hardly knows, the Great Prince of the Forest.

"The Wild." This computer-animated feature follows a teenage lion from the New York Zoo who gets accidentally shipped off to Africa, and freed.

His friends at the zoo (an older lion, a giraffe, an anaconda and a squirrel) must unite to bring him back.

And, in "Garfield 2," the fat cat returns with **Bill Murray**'s voice, while **Breckin Meyer** plays his owner Jon in the partially animated production.

'bellissima'!

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

TIES SAY "THANK YOU, DR.
ary viewer it may seem just
t if you knew Vicki the way
would see that over and be-
/cosmetic surgery, it's her
e most grateful for. Even her
f share the same sentiments.
"sis" Vicki a birthday tribute
least I could do to thank her
e an all-year round gift.
omes exactly a month after
use even long after Christmas
g and giving. I'm not talking
ving of herself. She goes the
r too busy to check on you ...
e makes the unbearable stuff
ull emotional investment.

he took me to my fave place

VICKI Belo

She goes the extra mile ... she's never too busy to check on friends ... she listens with her heart ... she makes the unbearable bearable ...

gasoline. Dr. Vicki was in the
ard what happened, she sent
doctors and if I needed any-

Despite her hectic sked, she
r all her friends. She's so at-
iefly we talk. I can really feel
at she's Antonia's *ninang* be-
siya yung tipong ninang lang
na."
is a little girl at heart. Early in
s out in "Magandang Umaga
in awe of her. Even without
person!"
you even when there's no oc-
nds me mini-skirts 'cause she
n't hide them *daw*."
was already lucky when I won
ier when I met Ms. Vicki. She

ows Vicki inside out, it's her
Bautista. She shares: "Vicki
roken-hearted. She likes ev-
riend is down, she sets up an
with her therapist and takes

endearing stuff about Vicki. I
whole page may not be suffi-
eing fussed about during her
e me, though, for "squealing"
ke when your heart runneth
l like shouting it to the whole
l about having Vicki for a "sis-
all down.
have Vi cki cloned. This trou-
n like her. Should I say "Belo
er. God must have been in a
Vicki 'cause He super-sized

" Thanks for being born and
er. Without you, I wouldn't be

nts of Tanay today! They are
y 1606-2006" with a parade
muy simpatico mayor, **Tom**
wife **Lina** for keeping Tanay

la@yahoo.com)

DID YOU KNOW...

Comedian and TV host Arnell Ignacio admits he has done incredible things in the name of love. He once followed a runaway lover all the way to Olongapo City, where they had to sell barbecue for a living.

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UNDERWORLD EVOLUTION R13 1:25,3:45,6:05,8:25	JARHEAD R18 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:15	UNDERWORLD 2: EVOLUTION R13 12:55,3:15,5:35, 7:55,10:15

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SHANG CINEPLEX
① UNDERWORLD EVOLUTION MTRCB R-13 12.00, 2.30, 5:00, 7:30, 10.00
② CHRONICLES OF NARNIA MTRCB GP 1 50 4 40 7 30 10 20
③ RUMOR HAS IT MTRCB PG-13 12.00, 2.30, 5.00, 7:30, 10:00
④ LITTLE MANHATTAN MTRCB GP 12.40, 2:45, 4:50, 6:55, 9:00
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CINEMA 5 UNDERWORLD R13 11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00
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RUMOR HAS IT 12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30	FAMILY STONE 1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:40	NARNIA 1:10 / 4:00 / 6:50 / 9:40	UNDERWORLD 2 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00
LITTLE MANHATTAN 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30	BLUE MOON 1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30	JARHEAD 1:55 / 4:30 / 7:05 / 9:40	ONLY P170 ADMISSION GLOBE PLATINUM P249-P299

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4	UNANG TIKIM 12:10 / 2:10 / 4:10 / 6:10 / 8.10	JARHEAD 12 35 / 3:10 / 5:45 / 8:20	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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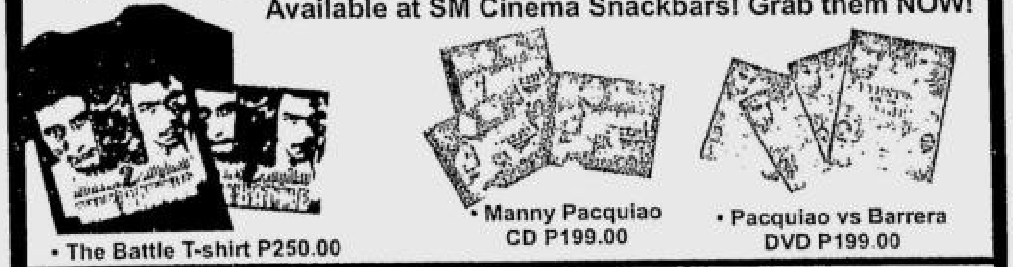

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2 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA 12:30FS 12:50MF 03.30 06 10 08:30LFS 09:00LMF/11:20END
MEGAMALL
1 AKO LEGAL WIFE 11:30FS 12:00MF/02:10 03 55LFS 04:20LMF/06:05END
CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 UNDERWORLD EVOLUTION 12:10FS/12:30MF 02.45/05:00 07:15 09.00LFS/09:30LMF/11:15END
2 UNDERWORLD EVOLUTION 10:45FS/01:00MF/03:15/05:30 07:15LFS/07:45LMF/09:30END
3 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE 11:35FS 11:50MF 02 15/04:40 07:05 09 05LFS 09:30LMF 11 30END

METRO MANILA

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1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 RUMOR HAS IT
3 UNDERWORLD 2
4 KING KONG
5 LITTLE MANHATTAN
6 NARNIA
7 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
8 AKO LEGAL WIFE
9 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
10 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
11 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
12 BLUE MOON

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 NARNIA
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 RUMOR HAS IT
5 KING KONG
6 AKO LEGAL WIFE
7 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
8 LITTLE MANHATTAN
9 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
10 BLUE MOON

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 NARNIA
4 KING KONG

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 UNDERWORLD 2
3 NARNIA
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 BLUE MOON
2 AKO LEGAL WIFE
3 EXODUS
4 NARNIA
5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
6 KING KONG
7 UNDERWORLD 2
8 RUMOR HAS IT
9 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
10 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
11 LITTLE MANHATTAN
12 KUTOB

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 RUMOR HAS IT
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 NARNIA
5 LITTLE MANHATTAN
6 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
7 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
8 KING KONG
9 KUTOB
10 RESERVED

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
2 UNDERWORLD 2
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 NARNIA

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 KING KONG
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 AKO LEGAL WIFE
5 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
6 LITTLE MANHATTAN
7 RUMOR HAS IT
8 NARNIA

SM CITY MANILA
1 RUMOR HAS IT
2 NARNIA
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
5 BLUE MOON
6 UNDERWORLD 2
7 AKO LEGAL WIFE
8 LITTLE MANHATTAN
9 UNDERWORLD 2
10 KING KONG
11 ST. ANGE
12 ENTENG KABISOTE 2

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 NARNIA
3 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
4 BLUE MOON
5 RUMOR HAS IT
6 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 NARNIA
2 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
3 IN HER SHOES
4 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
5 BEAUTIFUL BOXER
6 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 NARNIA
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 IN HER SHOES
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO
1 NARNIA
2 ST. ANGE
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 KUTOB

SM CITY BACOOR
1 BLUE MOON
2 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
3 UNDERWORLD 2
4 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
5 NARNIA
6 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
7 KING KONG
8 UNDERWORLD 2

SM CITY MARILAO
1 NARNIA
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 THE MAN
4 ST. ANGE

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 NARNIA
2 THE MAN
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 ST. ANGE

SM CITY LUCENA
1 NARNIA
2 BEAUTIFUL BOXER
3 THE FOG
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 NARNIA
4 AKO LEGAL WIFE

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 UNDERWORLD 2
3 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
4 IN HER SHOES
5 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
6 KING KONG
7 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
8 NARNIA

SM CITY ILOILO
1 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
2 RESERVED
3 NARNIA
4 PRIME
5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
6 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
7 RESERVED
8 IN HER SHOES

SM CITY DAVAO
1 NARNIA
2 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 IN HER SHOES
5 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
6 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 NARNIA
2 BLUE MOON
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

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GALLERIA
632-9116

1 UNDERWORLD 2 • THX
12:30 3:00 5:30 8:00

2 UNDERWORLD 2
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

3 The Chronicles of NARNIA
1:20 4:10 7:00 9:50

4 JARHEAD
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
12:10 2:35 5:00 7:25 9:50

6 LITTLE MANHATTAN
1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00

7 KING KONG
2:30 6:00 9:30

8 RUMOR HAS IT
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

9 THE FAMILY STONE
12:10 2:35 5:00 7:25 9:50

10 BLUE MOON 12:20 2:45
AKO LEGAL WIFE 5:10 7:35 10:00

ERMITA
536-7809 to 12

1 UNDERWORLD 2
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

2 LITTLE MANHATTAN
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 JARHEAD
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
11:30 1:35 3:40 5:45 7:50 10:00

5 The Chronicles of NARNIA
12:50 3:50 6:50 9:50

6 RUMOR HAS IT
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

7 KING KONG 11:00 2:20
SAINT ANGE 6:10 8:00 9:50

METRO EAST
682-8193 • 682-8199

1 JARHEAD
1:05 3:40 6:15 9:00

2 UNDERWORLD 2
11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05

3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
11:00 1:30 4:00 6:30 9:15

4 RUMOR HAS IT
1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05

5 BEAUTIFUL BOXER
1:40 4:00 6:20 9:00

6 BLUE MOON
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

7 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00

8 KING KONG
1:30 5:05 9:00

NOVALICHES
935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 The Chronicles of NARNIA
2 JARHEAD
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 UNDERWORLD 2
5 KING KONG

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2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 RESERVE
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2 UNDERWORLD 2
3 JARHEAD
4 RUMOR HAS IT

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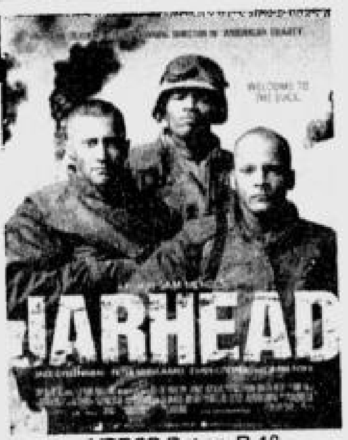
In the summer of 1990, Anthony Swofford, 20 yr. old third-generation enlistee, got sent to the deserts of Saudi Arabia to fight in the first Gulf War. In 2003, his memories of that time in that place became the best-selling book Jarhead. Swofford wrote with the urgency,immediacy, honesty and humor that could only come from someone who had lived through the experience itself. Here was unvarnished story straight from the mouth of the 20 yr. old kid, who told of a very different war from the one delivered in print or over the air. Here was the war from the ground up with first-time images of undeniable power,brutality, humor and irony.



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(043) 312-5870

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3 BEAUTIFUL BOXER
4 IN HER SHOES
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2 SAINT ANGE
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 The Chronicles of NARNIA
5 IN HER SHOES

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1 The Chronicles of NARNIA
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 BLUE MOON
4 IN HER SHOES

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(046) 471-8188

1 JARHEAD
2 BEAUTIFUL BOXER
3 The Chronicles of NARNIA
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

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6 The Chronicles of NARNIA

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6 BEAUTIFUL BOXER

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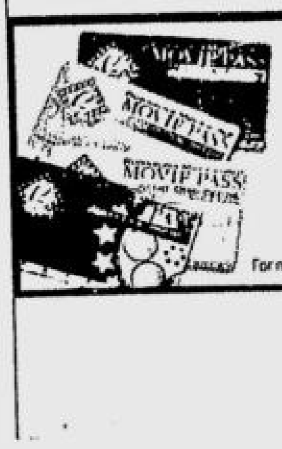
2 IN HER SHOES
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
5 ILUSYON
6 PRIME



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G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	2 UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION	3 RUMOR HAS IT	4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US			
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 RUMORS HAS IT	2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US	3 THX THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 JARHEAD	5 LITTLE MANHATTAN	6 UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION	7 THE FAMILY STONE
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 RUMORS HAS IT 11:30, 1:45, 4:00, 6:15, 8:30	2 UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION 11:30, 1:45, 4:00, 6:15, 8:30					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION 2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9:05, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	3 JARHEAD 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 LITTLE MANHATTAN 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 RUMOR HAS IT 2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9:05, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION	2 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	3 RUMOR HAS IT	4 JARHEAD	5 LITTLE MANHATTAN		
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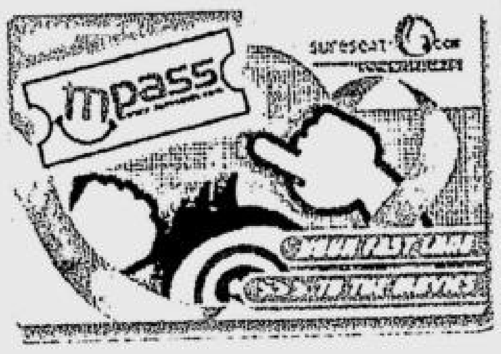

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④ THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
⑤ RUMOR HAS IT...

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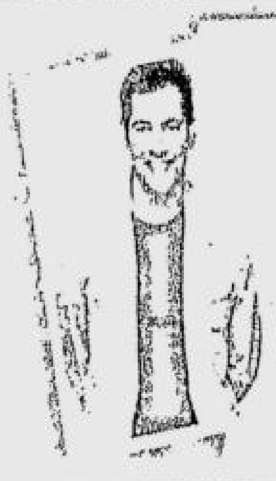

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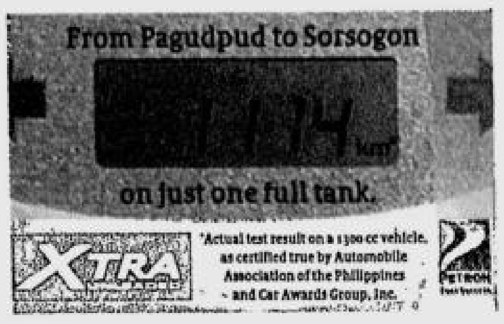

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PETRON

Gov't posted ₱146.5-B budget deficit in '05

As Treasury made up for BIR, Customs shortfalls

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT'S BUDGET deficit stood at only P146.5 billion in 2005, better than most forecasts and much lower than the official ceiling of P180 billion set for the year, on account of higher revenues and tighter spending.

The deficit figure for 2005 reflected a 21.7-percent improvement from the P187.1 billion in 2004.

The Department of Finance said that with the improving fiscal situation, the government was hopeful that the Philippines would finally be granted credit-rating upgrade by international ratings firms.

"We are hoping that this development would translate to more favorable ratings, the way it has already resulted in positive response by the market (as reflected by tightening of spreads on Philippine bonds)," Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said in a briefing on the Philippines' 2005 fiscal performance yesterday.

Documents from the DOF showed that last year's deficit resulted from the P795.7 billion in revenues generated by major collection agencies and P942.2 billion in expenditures.

The actual revenue figure was higher than the target of P783.2 billion. The government was able to surpass its revenue-collection goal despite the failure of the bureaus of internal revenue and of customs to meet their respective targets because of higher-than-programmed contribution by the Bureau of the Treasury.

The Treasury, tasked with collecting dividends for the national government from state-owned companies, contributed P70.6 billion in revenues. This was al-

GOV'T/B2

WHAT'S INSIDE

How to be a better investor II

/B2

SC called on to break Malampaya impasse

/B6

Bids for short-term T-bills rejected

THE BUREAU OF THE TREASURY yesterday rejected all bids for the 91- and 364-day bills, making a statement that the market cannot pressure the government to bear higher interest rates with its healthy cash position.

Had the Treasury accepted the bids for the 91-day bills, the rate could have jumped 22.4 basis points to 5.087 percent. With the rejection of bids, the rate for the three-month government securities remained at the previous week's 4.863 percent.

The yield of the 364-day bills could have risen by 10.6 basis points to 7.395 percent had the Treasury accepted the bids. The rate for the one-year bill was kept at 7.289 percent.

The Treasury, however, decided to partly accept bids for the 182-day paper. The partial rejection prevented an increase in the yield while allowing the government to raise P750 million from the auction.

The new rate for the six-month securities stood at 6.316 percent, or 0.2 basis point higher than the previous week's 6.314 percent.

Tenders for the three tenors reached P8.98 percent, still higher than the government's debt offering of only P3.5 billion. The amount of bids yesterday were, however, much lower than those raised in previous auctions where the government's debt offering was oversubscribed by more than three times.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz said the Treasury's auction committee decided to reject bids, fully for the 91- and 364-day bills and partly for the 182-day paper, not only because they would increase the government's borrowing cost but also because the interest rates sought by banks were higher than the rates in the secondary market.

"Besides, we (government) don't need the cash. We are in a position to take our time," Cruz said in a briefing after the auction.

Cruz noted that the government just recently raised $2.2 billion by floating dollar- and euro-denominated bonds in the international market.

Michelle V. Remo

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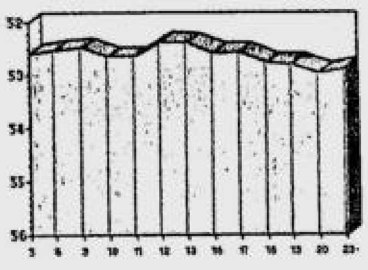

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As of 5 p.m., Jan. 23, 2006

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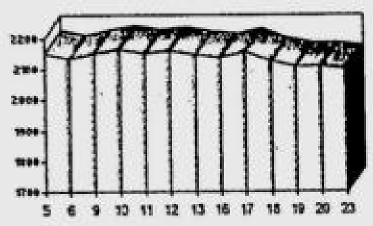
per ounce Hong Kong, Jan. 23, 2006

STOCK MARKET

Stocks extend losses

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARE prices closed 0.41 PERcent lower yesterday, extending losses for a fourth session on concerns over a spike in oil prices and a sell-off in market leader PLDT, dealers said.

They said heavy losses on Wall Street Friday as oil prices rose sharply hit sentiment and helped push all the regional markets down yesterday.

The composite index lost 8.74 points to 2,099.51, off a low of 2,086.80 and a high of 2,108.25. Volume was 6.9 billion shares worth P919.9 million.

The broader all-shares index fell 14.55 points to 980.99.

Gains and losers were matched at 36 each, with 59 stocks unchanged.

"Portfolio managers prefer to be on safer ground at the moment," said James Lago of Westlink Global Equities.

"Oil prices are on the rise again and the recent meltdown on the Tokyo stock exchange had spilled over to other major bourses as well." **AFP**

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Altis 1.6 E A/T	800,000	100,000	59,984	41,307	32,928	23,497	18,960	16,366
Altis 1.6 E M/T	765,000	100,000	56,834	39,137	31,201	22,265	17,966	15,506
Altis 1.6 J M/T	708,000	100,000	51,702	35,604	28,389	20,258	16,347	14,106
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Innova 2.5 G M/T	980,000	100,000	76,634	52,772	42,047	30,005	24,211	20,909
Innova 2.0 G A/T	985,000	100,000	77,084	53,082	42,294	30,181	24,353	21,031
Innova 2.0 G M/T	930,000	100,000	72,133	49,673	39,580	28,244	22,790	19,681
Innova 2.5 E M/T	885,000	100,000	68,082	46,883	37,360	26,660	21,512	18,575
Innova 2.5 J M/T	798,000	100,000	60,250	41,490	33,069	23,598	19,041	16,439
Innova 2.0 J M/T	748,000	100,000	55,749	38,390	30,602	21,837	17,621	15,210

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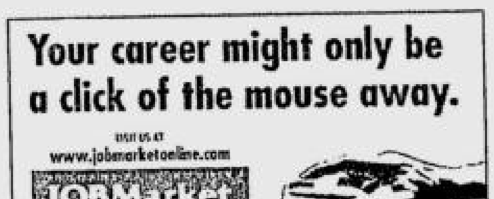

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The Energy Company

PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
PNOC Energy Companies Bldg., Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, 1200 Taguig City, Philippines
PO Box 2102 MCPO Tel. No. 893-6001 to 47/893-1320 • Fax 840-1575

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested contractors, registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) and classified, at least, as IAC Medium, Sub-Category A, General Engineering or General Building and must have completed within the last ten (10) years at least one contract for the civil, structural, and mechanical/piping works which is similar to the contract under bidding amounting to at least 50% of the approved budget, to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project.

CIVIL, STRUCTURAL, AND MECHANICAL/PIPING WORKS FOR THE CONVERSION OF TONGONAN REINJECTION TO PRODUCTION WELL (1R4), MG-9D PRODUCTION WELL HOOK-UP TO SS2, AND MAHANAGDONG A SS#1 DUMPLINE TO CONCRETE SILENCER
EDC 05-187-1

The prospective contractor's experience in mechanical/piping works shall involve piping works installed in accordance to ANSI/ASME B31.1 and/or B31.3, such as power plant construction, chemical plant piping installation, refinery/petrochemical piping installation and other high-pressured piping installation for gas, steamline, etc. Water supply lines installed in accordance to AWWA or equivalent shall not be considered as similar work

The Approved Budget is PhP 12,195,200.00 chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund. The contract duration is 150 calendar days

Application forms for eligibility and bid documents may be secured from the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group (c/o Francis T. Tolibas local 5179) starting January 17, 2006 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: One Thousand Five Hundred (PhP 1,500.00).

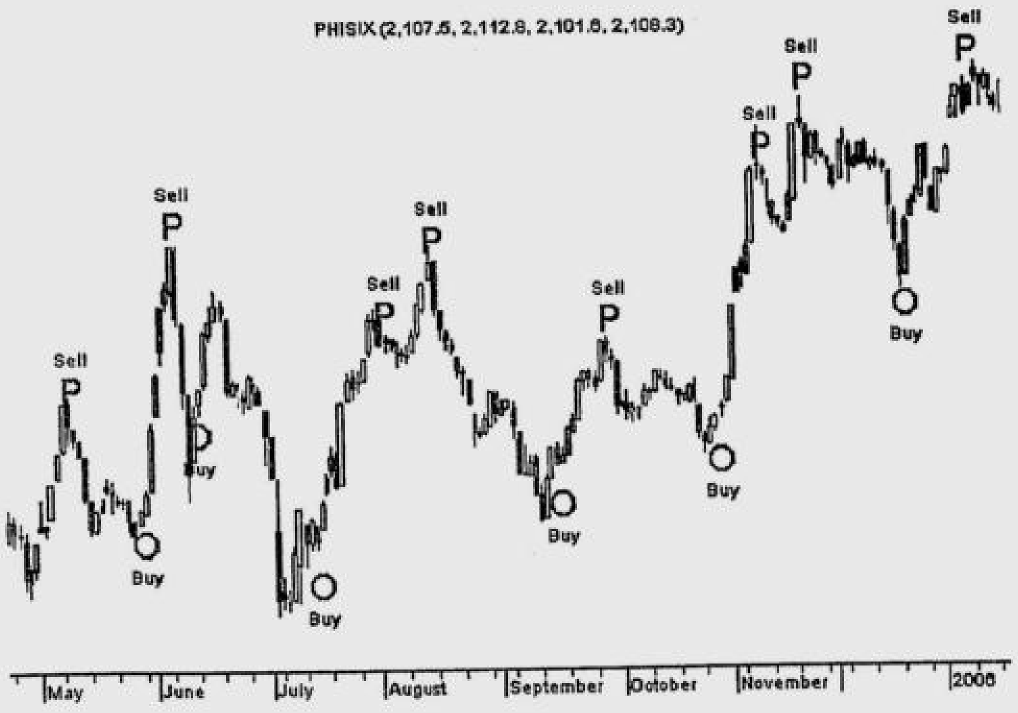
Site inspection is on January 26, 2006 at the Leyte Geothermal Production Field in Ormoc,Leyte. For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on February 2, 2006, 10:00 a.m. at the BAC Conference Room, First Floor, Building V, PNOC-EDC, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila.

Sealed bids shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group, First Floor, Building V, PNOC-EDC, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila not later than 2:00 p.m. (Contracts Administration Group Office Wall Clock Time) of February 16, 2006 and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC

The Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Jan. 17 & 24, 2006



How to be a better investor II

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

IN JULY 2004, I WROTE A SERIES OF THREE articles designed to help you become a better investor and I feel that it is time to revise and upgrade them.

Previously, I called them The 10 Commandments, but nobody could find them on the Internet because some guy called Moses beat me to it. Apparently, he climbed Mount Cyanide and brought down two tablets in Hebrew, which instructed people how to live.

I took a cable car up Mount Mayon and brought down two capsules in Mayonnaise, which tell people how to invest. Excuse this frivolous introduction but Pacquiao won and my Morale's high.

Before I begin, I would like you to look at the chart in the center, covering much of 2005/6.

You will see that there are a number of cycles, each comprising a high and a low. These are irregular, both in duration and amplitude.

The BUY and SELL arrows inserted by the computer are a product of a momentum indicator, similar to the degree of risk. These are several momentum indicators and far more lag indicators, but after one year of intense experiment, I adapted a US version to the Philippine market.

Computers do not cheat, so it is clear that the indicator works very well and forms the basis of my newsletter.

Lag indicators, such as the 50-day moving average crossing the 200-day moving average, tell you what you should have done about five weeks ago.

Personally, I do not find this very helpful so I use an adapted momentum indicator and Point and Figure charts. These work independently and confer different information, which often complement each other.

Deriving corresponding signals by completely different methods give me additional confirmation and, so far, my record has been pretty good.

The cycles apply also to individual stocks as well as the market.

This led me to recommend TEL at P226, up almost eight-fold, GLOBE at P400, PCOR at P1.80, PXB at P1.20 in 2002 with a SELL target of P1.80 (the exact top), and PXB again, a few months ago at P1.20. PAX at P3.10, adjusted for the rights issue, was inspirational, not chart oriented.

I also recommend ALI, AC and MEG at much lower levels and in every case, I gave fundamental reasons to support my recommendations. Technical analysis plus fundamental analysis equals success.

All this by way of introduction, so I will now proceed to the first and most important rule.

1. NEVER TRADE AGAINST THE TREND

This rule, together with my logo, appears in all my INQUIRER articles and my daily newsletters. It should be self-explanatory because if most foreign brokers are selling the market or individual stocks aggressively, you will need to have more financial resources than they have combined.

As this is extremely unlikely, do not attempt to challenge them. Wait until the downward momentum of the market subsides and there are large cross sales in leaders before you jump in. Large cross sales represent internal repositioning and often signals the end of the selling. It is pointless swimming against the current; far better to swim with the current.

How do you know when you have reached the top or the bottom of the cycle? There is no infallible system, but there is an important difference between price and momentum.

The latter does not always follow the price but measures the rate of price change. This means that if the price is rising or falling at a slower pace, it could be signaling that the cycle is nearing a turning point.

A good clue is how the index closes, relative to its lowest point. If the Phisix drops 20 points and recovers 5 points, this will not change the downward direction of the momentum.

But if the index drops 20 points at 10:30 am and closes down 5 points, then the momentum indicator will tell the computer mathematically that the strong downward trend reversed sharply towards the close. Followers of candlesticks will recognize this as a hammer, a reliable reversal signal.

It is quite possible that momentum will be unchanged or even slightly up, in which case

MR. BERABULL/ B3

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of January 23, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	36.5	36.5	36	36.5	437,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	55.5	57.5	55.5	57.5	1,488,300
China Banking Corp.	600	605	600	605	370
Citystate Savings Bank	19	19	19	19	500
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	61	62	60.5	62	160,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	29.5	30	29	30	1,582,000
Philippine National Bank	32.5	32.5	32.5	32.5	17,100
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14	14	14	14	100
Security Bank Corp.	36.5	36.5	36	36	5,600
Union Bank of the Phil.	31	31.5	31	31.5	3,200
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	25	25	25	25	3,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	3100	3100	3090	3100	310
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	82,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	145	145	145	145	750
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2100	2105	2100	2105	210
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	52.5	52.5	52	52.5	314,900
Manila Electric Co. A	14	14	14	14	11,500
Manila Electric Co. B	21	21.5	21	21.5	105,900
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.3	4,436,000
Petron Corp.	4.75	4.85	4.75	4.85	3,276,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.93	0.95	0.93	0.95	250,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.4	3.8	3.4	3.8	32,000
CADP Group Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	50,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	6,200
Jollibee Foods Corp.	38.5	40.5	38.5	39.5	176,000
Pancake House Inc.	3.65	3.7	3.65	3.7	6,000
RFM Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	300,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.5	1.52	1.5	1.52	197,000
San Miguel Corp. A	63	64	63	64	167,000
San Miguel Corp. B	87.5	88	87.5	88	119,500
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	5,000
Universal Robina Corp.	20.25	20.5	20.25	20.5	10,300
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	200,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	4,110,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.95	0.97	0.93	0.96	4,500,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.35	4.4	4.3	4.4	200,000
CHEMICALS					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	8,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	100,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.0725	0.0725	1,500,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	2,800,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	50,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	1,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.008	0.011	0.008	0.01	1,765,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.009	0.013	0.009	0.012	253,000,000
Atok-Big Wedge.Inc. B	13	13	13	13	100
Ayala Corp.	325	327.5	320	325	49,940
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.53	0.53	360,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	49,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.025	0.023	0.025	25,500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.22	2.24	2.22	2.24	115,000
APC Group Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	100,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	255,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.9	0.91	0.89	0.91	300,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	30,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.08	7,375,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	76,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	4.5	4.7	4.5	4.65	3,059,000
Medco Holdings	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	200,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	5,000,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.245	0.25	6,190,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	1,430,000
SM Investments Corp.	237	240	237	239	639,620
South China Resources Inc.	0.55	0.59	0.55	0.59	210,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	400,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	10.25	10.5	10	10	2,717,700
Belle Corp.	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.04	2,407,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.185	0.185	2,310,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	300,000
C & P Homes Inc.	1.84	1.84	1.8	1.8	121,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	90,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.215	0.215	540,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	1,320,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.48	0.49	10,760,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	90,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.46	1.48	1.46	1.48	2,495,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	100,000
Interport Res.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	6,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.004	0.005	0.004	0.005	17,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	10,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	1,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.36	1.38	1.36	1.38	2,939,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	11,000,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	600,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	200,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	5.8	6	5.8	6	16,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	380,000
SM Development Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	46,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.5	7.7	7.5	7.6	5,339,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	260,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	17,300
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.93	0.94	0.93	0.93	1,340,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	740	745	740	740	34,810
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.4	1,354,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1750	1750	1730	1745	127,560
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	100,000
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	3,000,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.046	0.048	0.045	0.048	14,600,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0625	0.0625	0.0575	0.06	89,800,000
Philweb Corp.	0.027	0.028	0.026	0.028	1,353,300,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	7,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	11.5	11.5	11.25	11.25	548,100
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	130,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.62	1.64	1.62	1.64	1,338,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	280,000
EDUCATION					
Centro Escolar University	9	9	9	9	51,000
Ipeople Inc.	3	3	3	3	136,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Paxys Inc.	7.5	7.7	7.3	7.7	1,271,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1.18	1.22	1.14	1.18	799,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.66	1.7	1.64	1.66	1,664,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0075	0.0065	0.0075	212,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.2	6.4	6.1	6.2	715,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.225	2,270,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.27	9,610,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	1,500,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.027	0.027	0.026	0.026	46,800,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0065	0.005	0.006	2,251,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.38	1,740,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	2.16	2.18	2.12	2.14	2,706,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	12,300
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	300,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.19	0.21	0.19	0.21	690,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0065	0.008	0.0065	0.007	326,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0075	0.0085	0.0075	0.008	159,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	120,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	4.1	4.1	4	4.1	246,000
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series M	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	8,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	11,700

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO THE DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED RURAL BANK OF ZAMBOANGUITA (NEGROS ORIENTAL), INC.

1. Pursuant to Monetary Board Resolution No. 12 dated January 5, 2006 ordering the closure of the Rural Bank of Zamboanguita (Negros Oriental), Inc. (RBZI), the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) will start its operations for the servicing of claims for insured deposits in the closed RBZI on Wednesday, January 11, 2006.

2. Depositors are requested to proceed directly to the premises of RBZI where they can file their claims with the PDIC representatives from January 11 to January 27, 2006, during office hours (8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.), Monday to Friday.

After the said date, all depositors can file their claims personally at the PDIC Claims Counter, 6th Floor, SSS BLDG, Ayala Avenue corner V.A. Rufino St., Makati City from Monday to Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. or by mail to:

The Manager
Claims Processing Department
Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
2228 Chino Roces Avenue
1231 Makati City

3. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to the PDIC representatives when filing their claims:

a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook, Certificate of Time Deposit, or Bank Statement including Unused Checks.
b. Two (2) latest identification cards/documents (IDs) with depositor's signature.

Other documents may be required by the PDIC representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.

4. Pursuant to the provision of R.A. 3591, as amended by R.A. 9302, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing claims for insured deposits in the closed Rural Bank of Zamboanguita (Negros Oriental), Inc. is on January 7, 2008. After January 7, 2008, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI – January 10, 17 & 24, 2006)

PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City
is now accepting applications for
Academic Year 2006

FELLOWSHIPS
I. 3-Year Fellowship Training Program in Adult Cardiology*
- 3 years Residency in Internal Medicine accredited by PCP
- PCP Diplomate
II. 1-Year Subspecialty Fellowship Training Program in Electrophysiology, Cardiac Rehabilitation, Non-Invasive Cardiology, Invasive Cardiology, Peripheral Vascular and Critical Care Cardiology*
- Completed 3 years Fellowship in Cardiology in PCP and PCC accredited Institutions.
- Submit a research proposal
- Certificate of Fellowship
III. Adult Pulmonary Medicine*
- PCP Diplomate
* Deadline for submission of application is on February 27, 2006
* Academic Year 2006 starts on April 1, 2006
IV. CV Anesthesiology Division**
- 3 years Residency in General Anesthesia accredited by PBA (Board eligible).
V. Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery Division**
- 4 years Residency in General Surgery accredited by PCS (Board eligible)
VI. Pediatric Pulmonary Medicine**
- PCP Diplomate
** Deadline for submission of application is on February 17, 2006
** Academic Year 2006 starts on April 1, 2006
VII. Pediatric Cardiology
- 3 years Residency in General Pediatric accredited by PPS
- at least passed written examination for Diplomate in Pediatrics by the PPS
You can submit your application as soon as possible.

General Requirements:
1. Medical Diploma
2. Transcript of Records with the General Weighted Average
3. Itemized Board Rating
4. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation with at least one letter written by the Training Officer &/or Director of the previous Training Programs (duplicate letters or photocopies signed by different Doctors will not be accepted)
5. Four (4) pcs. 2" x 2" picture colored
6. Certificate of Residency in required specialty
7. Specialty Board Certificate in required specialty

Please address your communications to:
ARISTIDES G. PANLILIO, M.D.
Department Manager II
Office of Education and Research
Philippine Heart Center
East Avenue, Quezon City

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Carmela M. Ocasion or Ms. Cleopatra Q. Palencia with Tel. Nos. 925-2401 locals 3234, 3235, 3236 & 3237 and Telefax 926-9622, or you can email to: oer@phc.gov.ph

Gov't . . .

From page B1

most double, or P34.1 billion better, than the target of only P36.6 billion.

The Treasury's overperformance was more than enough to cover for the shortfalls of the BIR and the BOC.

The BIR collected only P534.5 billion, or P12.4 billion short of its target of P546.9 billion. The BOC turned in only P141.7 billion although it was tasked to collect P151.2 billion.

The BIR and BOC collection figures did not include their non-cash tax and duty collections, which the two were lobbying to be added to their revenue performance.

dti
Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
Industry & Investments Building
385 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue
Makati City

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that PACIFIC SERVICES AND PACKAGING ENTERPRISES, INC., is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as Manufacturer of Plastic Packaging Products on a Non-Pioneer Status with capacity of 5,390 MT per year with project/plant site located at AJMR Port Complex, Km. 20, Tibungco, Davao City.

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) RUDY B. CAÑA
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI - January 24, 2006)

Pre-need firms emerge from sales downturn of past year

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE PRE-NEED INDUSTRY, still spooked by the financial woes of College Assurance Plan and Pacific Plans, is slowly rising out of a sales downturn, according to government data.

Latest figures from the Securities and Exchange Commission showed that pre-need sales continued to contract by 35.7 percent in November from a year ago.

But the decline was much slower than the 82.16 percent year-on-year drop in October.

Sales in the pre-need industry is measured in terms of collections made on plans sold, also known as Initial Collections Brought In.

January to November 2005 figures showed an improving trend compared to its performance in the first 10 months of the year, even as total sales still recorded a 54.72-percent drop against the first 11 months of the previous year.

This was slower than the 56.12 percent decline seen from January to October 2005.

Prudentialife and Philam continue to lead, although both recorded major declines in their sales figures.

In November 2005, the output of top player Prudentialife decreased by 77 percent from a year ago while its year-to-date figures also contracted by 65 percent versus sales posted for the first ten months of the previous year.

The second biggest pre-need firm, Philam Plans, likewise registered a sales drop of 63 percent in November and a 59-percent retreat in year-to-date sales compared to a year ago.

Also, the pre-need unit of Sun Life Financial improved its overall industry ranking from fifth to third during the period.

In November 2005, Sun Life was the industry's top performer in terms of sales, growing by 603 percent versus the same period in 2004 despite the continuing drop in the total sales of the entire industry.

In terms of year-to-date figures, Sun Life likewise posted a major leap of 46.5 percent from the first eleven months of the previous year.

BSP, PDIC urged to split costs of UCPB debt deal

THE STATE-OWNED Philippine Deposit Insurance Co. wants the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to share in the costs of the P12-billion debt-to-equity conversion proposed by sequestered United Coconut Planters Bank.

PDIC president Ricardo Tan said the deposit insurer was studying UCPB's request to convert P12 billion in outstanding cash advances into hybrid instruments that could qualify as tier 1 or core capital.

The PDIC, Tan said, would be in a position to help, but the BSP could only give liquidity assistance subject to first class collaterals and only to solvent institutions.

As such, Tan said the PDIC and BSP would still have to jointly study UCPB's request, while noting a lot of constraint on first class collateral required by the BSP.

"We can provide assistance and even rehabilitate a closed bank, but there's always a cap to the assistance we can give," Tan said.

UCPB said it could revert to profitability in three or four years if the PDIC would approve the conversion.

The PDIC has P74.2 billion in outstanding debts to the BSP, following large bail-out programs for distressed banks. But PDIC said it had the ability to pay these debts.

Doris C. Dumlao

Mr. Bearbull

From page B2

you know that you should jump in on the first sign of strength.

From experience, this usually means in the first hour of trading. Frequently, the market opens nervously next morning and slowly starts to recover its loss. That is the time to get into the market because the trend is about to reverse to the upside. The trend is changing for the better and you want to be investing with the upturn.

The momentum indicator works even better as you approach a top and my indicator is always one day ahead of the turn. This is because investors are reluctant to sell at the top, believing that it is only consolidating, so you have more time to get out of the market.

As you can see, the computer arrows are close to the top and bottoms but slightly behind. That is because I have used a stochastic instead of my risk indicator, about which I will give no information, other than to say that it is more accurate. I will not answer any questions until the series is completed. *(To be continued). mrbearbull@hotmail.com*

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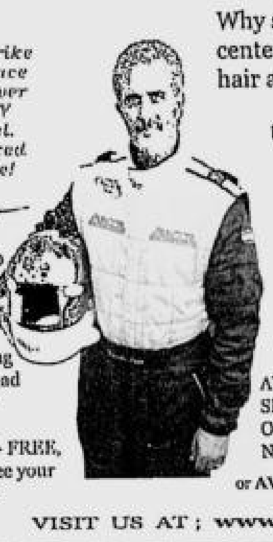

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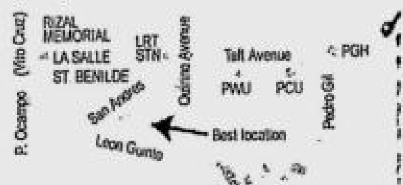

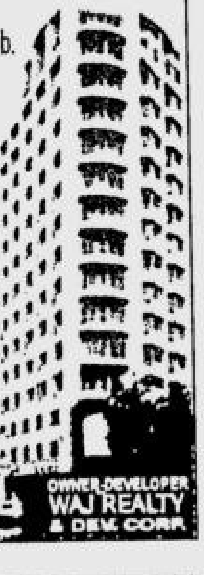

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VICTORIAS
MILLING COMPANY, INC.

NOTICE OF STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

TO ALL STOCKHOLDERS:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to Section 1, Article VIII of the Amended By-Laws, the Annual Stockholders' Meeting of **VICTORIAS MILLING COMPANY, INC. ("VMC")** will be held on **Tuesday, 07 February 2006** at 9 o'clock a.m. at **The EXPORTBANK Conference Center,** 24th Floor, Export Bank Plaza, Senator Gil Puyat Avenue cor. Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City.

The **AGENDA** of the meeting will be as follows –

1. Call to Order
2. Certification of Notice to Stockholders and Presence of Quorum
3. Approval of the Minutes of the Stockholders' Meeting held on 01 April 2005
4. Presentation of the Annual Report
5. Ratification of Acts and Proceedings of the Board of Directors and Corporate Officers
6. Appointment of External Auditors
7. Election of Members of the Board of Directors
8. Other Matters
9. Adjournment

Minutes of the last Regular Stockholders' Meeting and resolutions of the Board of Directors from 01 January 2005 will be available for examination during office hours at the VMC Makati Office located at 9126 Sultana corner Honradez Streets, Barangay Olympia, Makati City.

Stockholders who will not, are unable to, or do not expect to attend the meeting in person may, at their option, designate their authorized representatives by means of a **PROXY** which should be submitted to *Ms. Denia D. Austria* at the VMC Makati Office, located at 9126 Sultana corner Honradez Streets, Barangay Olympia, Makati City, to *Atty. Eva A. Vicencio-Rodriguez* at VICMICO Compound, Victorias City, Negros Occidental, or to *Fidelity Stock Transfers, Inc.* at Ground Floor, PHILEX Building, 27 Brixton corner Fairlane Streets, Pasig City, Metro Manila **not later than 28 January 2006 at 5 o'clock p.m.**

Only Stockholders of Record as of 5 o'clock p.m. of 15 January 2006 shall be entitled to vote at this meeting.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CORPORATION IS NOT SOLICITING PROXIES.

For your convenience in registering your attendance, please present any form of identification, such as driver's license, passport, voter's I.D., Social Security System Member Card or Tax Identification Number Card. Your duly designated proxy is required to present a copy of the duly executed proxy form. Registration will start at 7 o'clock a.m. and will close at exactly 8:30 a.m.

Please be guided accordingly.

(Sgd.) SANTIAGO T. GABIONZA, JR.
Corporate Secretary

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Upgrade 2006 held at UP

THE UP OFFICE OF COUNSELING AND GUIDANCE (UP OCG), UP Alumni Association and UP Junior Philippine of Accountants (UP JPIA) is holding UPGRADE 2006: The 17th University Job Fair started yesterday, Jan. 23.

There will be orientation seminar series throughout the week, imparted by distinct company representatives starting Monday to Friday, Jan. 23 to 27. There will also be a Job Hunt Basics Seminar series wherein students will be taught important job application guidelines. On Wednesday, Jan. 25, there will be a Power Dressing seminar wherein students will be familiarized and taught with the basics of corporate fashion by representatives of sponsoring apparels. Fun games and cultural presentations will also be conducted throughout the week.

All students, especially those who are graduating, are invited to this grand event. They are requested to bring several copies of resumes and visit us at the UP Bahay ng Alumni, UP Campus, Diliman, Quezon City from Jan. 23 to 27 from 8-5pm.

23-27 JANUARY 2006
Ang Bahay ng Alumni, UP Campus
Diliman, Quezon City
8:00am - 5:00pm

UPGRADE
The 17th University Job Fair

More Classified Ads on Page B2

Republic of the Philippines
ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Pilar Street, Zamboanga City

SECTION I. INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Brief Description of Goods: Brand New Mitsubishi L-300 FB Utility Vehicle

The ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT, through its *Internally generated funds* intends to apply the sum of *P700,000.00* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under ZCWD *Purchase Requisition No. 8685 dated January 3, 2006.* Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

The ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT now invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the supply/delivery of a *Brand New Mitsubishi L-300.* Delivery of GOODS is required by *March 30, 2006.* The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules & Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process of the Eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall be advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall be then awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT and inspect the Bidding documents at the address given below during office hours (8:00-5:00 pm).

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Seven Hundred Pesos (P700.00). The method of payment will either be thru Cash, Certified Check or Cashier's Check only. The bidding documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on January 31, 2006, 2:00 pm at this address:

2nd Floor ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT Main Office Building
Pilar Street, Zamboanga City

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below at or before 2:00 pm. February 7, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of Cash, Certified check or Cashier's Check and in the amount of P7,000.00. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid Opening shall be on February 7, 2006 at the 2nd Floor, ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT Main Office Building, Pilar St., Zamboanga City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representative's who choose to attend at the address below.

The ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time or prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Mr. Noel M. Kawaguchi
Pilar St., Zamboanga City 7000
Telephone No. (062) 991-1556
Email: zcwdcjedlink.com.ph
Fax: (062) 991-2799

(Sgd.) ARNULFO A. ALFONSO
BAC I Chairman

(PDI–Jan. 24, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Pilar Street, Zamboanga City

SECTION I. INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Brief Description of Goods: Various Ink Cartridges and Toners for 1st Quarter Stock

The ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT, through its *internally generated funds* intend to apply the sum of *P679,379.96* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under *ZCWD Purchase Requisition No. 8690 dated January 5, 2006.* Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

The ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT now invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the supply/delivery of *Ink Cartridges and Toners.* Delivery of GOODS is required by *February 24, 2006.* The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules & Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process of the Eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall be advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall be then awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT and inspect the Bidding documents at the address given below during office hours (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM).

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Six Hundred Pesos (P600.00). The methods of payment will either be thru Cash, Certified Check or Cashier's Check only. The bidding documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on January 31, 2006, 2:00 p.m. at this address

2nd Floor ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Main Office Building, Pilar Street, Zamboanga City

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below at or before 2:00 p.m., February 7, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of Cash, Certified check or Cashier's Check and in the amount of P6,793.80. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid Opening shall be on February 7, 2006 at the 2nd Floor, ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT Main Office Building, Pilar St., Zamboanga City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representative's who choose to attend at the address below.

The ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Mr. Noel M. Kawaguchi
Pilar St., Zamboanga City 7000
Telephone No. (062) 991-1556
E-mail: zcwdcjedlink.com.ph
Fax: (062) 991-2799

(Sgd.) ARNULFO A. ALFONSO
BAC I Chairman

(PDI - Jan. 24, 2006)

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate. ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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OBITUARY

"Our Dearly Beloved"

V.W. Efren H. Bedia

PM Member, Jose Rizal Lodge #22, M.R.S. Phil.
Bodies A.A.S.R.
Peacefully joined our Creator
on January 20, 2006 at the age of 80

His bereaved wife Leonor; children Elnora, Ericson, Evelyn, Ellen, Elinor, Elmer, Elvis, Edwin, Evangeline, Edward & Eugene; grandchildren, brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, sons- and daughters-in-law, sisters- & brothers-in-law and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Wake	155 Dr. A. Gonzales St., Biñan, Laguna.
Interment	9:00 a.m., January 25, at Forest Lake. San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna

Our Dearly Beloved

Purificacion Tomas Reyes

(6 March 1910-23 January 2006)

has joined in heaven
her late husband, Pablo C. Reyes, Sr.,
former Superintendent of City Schools, Q.C.

Please join her sons,
Pablo Jr. (Lito) and Angelo (Angie),
stepchildren, daughters-in-law,
grandsons, great grandchildren
and the rest of her family
in praying for the eternal repose
of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Capilla del Señor,
Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.
Interment will be at 12 noon, Saturday, 28 January 2006,
at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

"Even when
I walk
through a
dark valley,
I feel no
harm. For
you are at
my side,
your rod and
staff give me
courage..."
Psalm 23:4

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Elizabeth Lim Bienvenida

Peacefully joined her Creator on Sunday, January 22, 2006

Her beloved husband Al, children: Tiffany and Jovy, Timothy and Vangie, Trixie; grandchildren: AJ, Joshua, Nikki and Johann; brothers and sisters; brothers-and-sisters-in-law; nephews and nieces; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel 1 of The Mortuary & Crematory at The Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio, Bayani Road, Taguig City.

Interment will be on January 26, 2006 at The Heritage Park after the 9:00AM Necrological Mass at Chapel 1.

Mortuary and Crematory at THE HERITAGE PARK FORT BONIFACIO

EDILBERTO A. AJERO

(February 24, 1922 – January 21, 2006)

of Legaspi City, Albay

Peacefully joined our Lord
on January 21, 2006 at the age of 83.

His loving wife, **Charito (†)**, and children: **Mila (†) & Atty. Ramon A. Felipe IV, Thelma & Eng. Nelson Acuña, Teddy & Edith Gonzales, Dr. Raul & Winnie Coching, Noel**; grandchildren: **Ramon V & Paula Leynes Felipe, Julius & Lovely Bautista Felipe, Milo & Iyad Palisoc Felipe, Amanda Felipe, Xavier Felipe (†), Celeste Acuña, Nelson Acuña, Jr., Tidy Ajero**; great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for his eternal repose.

His remains lie in state at the Family Residence, J.B. Alegre St., Tula-Tula, Legaspi City.

Interment will be on January 30, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at the Bicol Memorial Park, Bugtong, Legaspi City.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
Tel. Nos. Q.C.: 712-3001 • 743-6502
Manila: 711-6931 to 35

NAME OF DECEASED	PLACE OF VIEWING	INTERMENT/CREMATION DATE & TIME	INTERMENT/CREMATION PLACE
ROGELIO T. SORIANO	Family residence Urbiztondo, Pangasinan	1/25/2006, 8:00 a.m.	Urbiztondo Cemetery, Pangasinan
ELEUTERIA S. ALDE	Chapel K, Q.C.	1/25/06; 10:00 a.m.	North Cemetery

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In Loving Memory

4th Death Anniversary

PAZ "PACHING" GRUET GARCIA

The following Masses will be celebrated today
January 24, 2006

Convent of Perpetual Adoration, Hemady St., Q.C.	6:00 AM
Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills, Mandaluyong	7:15 AM
Mary The Queen, Greenhills, Mandaluyong	6:00 PM
Christ The King, E. Rodriguez, Q.C.	6:00 PM
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, New Manila, Q.C.	6:00 PM
Most Holy Redeemer Parish, Brixton Hill, Q.C.	6:30 PM

The family requests the pious readers to pray for eternal peace and happiness.

Joselito Liquete Legaspi

Peacefully joined our Creator
on January 21, 2006 at the age of 57.

His wife **Cely**; children **Paulo & Meanne, Lala, Alan & Letlet**; grandchildren **Annika, Gavin, Trixia, Pia & Jed**; brother **Manolo & Lita**; and relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Jacinto Chapel, La Funeraria Paz, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Friday, January 27, 2006 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

BUSINESS

GMA 7 eyes 2 state-owned TV stations

By Clarissa S. Batino

GMA NETWORK INC. IS STUDYING IF it would make sense to bid for government television stations RPN-9 and IBC-13 which are both up for privatization this year, GMA 7 president Felipe Gozon said in an interview.

"We are not ruling out the possibility of joining the bidding for Channel 9 and 13, so you can't count us out," he said.

The sale of the assets of Radio Philippines Network 9 and Intercontinental Broadcasting Corp. 13 was estimated to yield a combined P4.5 billion.

However, analysts said the government might not be able to realize that amount from the sale of the two stations, saying their equipment were old and much of their airtime had been sold to blocktimers such as El Shaddai. A plus point for the two networks is that they operate on higher frequency bands, giving it a wider signal than other industry players.

GMA 7, now the country's most profitable broadcast network, said it might have its hands full with the new programming line-up for Channel 11, which was branded QTV (Quality TV), as well as its overseas venture and local expansion. It is also expected to push through with its long-awaited initial public offering by the second quarter of the year. The plan is to sell 20 percent to 30 percent of the company's outstanding shares to the public to raise between P6 and P9 billion. But participating in the bidding for the two government stations is still a possibility, he said.

Slower vehicle sales growth seen

Higher taxes, cap on input VAT credits and importation blamed

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL VEHICLE ASSEMBLERS ARE EXPECTing slower growth in industry sales this year due to the reformed value-added tax law that puts additional burden on companies through a cap on input VAT recoveries.

Elizabeth H. Lee, president of the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc., said the group had projected vehicle sales to reach 102,000 units by the end of 2006 or only 5 percent higher than the 97,063 units sold in 2005.

Lee said the auto makers were expecting to sell 34,500 passenger cars and 67,500 commercial vehicles.

Last year, industry sales grew 10.3 percent from 88,003 units in 2004. The growth was mainly due to the advance purchases by consumers in anticipation of the price increases this year to be brought about by the reformed VAT that took effect on Nov. 1.

The VAT rate would go up by 2 percentage points starting next month. This is expected to further jack up prices and dampen demand.

Lee said Campi would have projected a higher sales growth rate if not for the reformed VAT law.

Lee also blamed for the slower sales growth forecast the continued importation of used vehicles; the current political turmoil that would affect consumer confidence and investor confidence in business climate stability, as well as the increase in corporate income tax by 3 percentage points to 35 percent under the new VAT law.

Earlier this month, Campi said overall sales were projected to slightly increase in January due to fleet accounts deliveries and the possible spillover of the advance purchases.

On the part of dealers, Lee said advance purchases led to dealers' hesitation to stock up units.

She said dealers were wary of the "detrimental effect of the 70-percent cap on the companies' input VAT credits."

"Both assemblers and dealers will have the difficult task of managing inventories," she said.

Campi has been pushing for the repeal of the cap on the VAT credit for companies which Lee said "poses a grave threat to the very existence of individual businesses."

The Campi president said the cap was a clear deterrent to the growth of the automotive sector and other industries as well as the economy in general.

"As business cannot absorb the cost entailed by such a cap, an additional burden to the already suffering consumers is unwittingly created as prices of vehicles would have to be increased," Lee said.

"The 70-percent cap on input VAT is a disincentive and unnecessary prohibitive measure imposed on businesses; causes increase in cost of doing business and prices of vehicles," Lee said. "This already changed the behaviors of dealers which in turn affects assemblers."

Further, Lee said another major challenge for the industry this year was the increasing crude oil prices in the world market would affect local fuel prices and affect consumer behavior.

Parliamentary shift: The real reason

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA rousingly explained in a recent TV talk how the parliamentary system would solve all the problems of the country.

De Venecia said the parliamentary system would develop responsible and effective political parties. But Singapore is a one-party parliament. In the last elections, Lee Kuan Yew was terribly upset because the opposition doubled their seats—to two. In Thailand, there are no effective political parties. Turncoatism is common. A law now prescribes that, if a member votes against his party on an important issue, he is not only out of his party but also out of parliament. A similar law exists in India.

A party is only as strong as its internal system of rewards and penalties. In the UK, you do not have to be a resident of the district where you will run. There are districts which have voted for Labor for one hundred years. So, Tony Blair sends his most trusted party mates to run in those districts. When they win, they are loyal to the Labor Party for life.

De Venecia said a unicameral parliament would solve the gridlock in lawmaking. The legislative mill is clogged with hundreds of bills to rename schools, streets and *esteros*.

He said the parliament was the best way to fight poverty. He points to the rich nations in Europe and Southeast Asia, all being ruled under the parliamentary system. He does not mention that the poorest nations around the world, especially in Africa where citizens are dying of hunger every day, are also run under parliamentary systems.

He said the no confidence vote in a parliamentary system makes it easier to get rid of a bad prime minister. If so, then it is just as easy to get rid of a good prime minister.

He recommends the French model where, he says, the president is the CEO; the prime minister is the COO and elected by parliament

Charles de Gaulle must be turning in his grave. Fifty years ago, he designed the French model, which was approved overwhelmingly by the French.

The president is the dominant figure in France. He is voted directly by the people. He appoints, repeat appoints, the prime minister who, in turn, recommends the members of the cabinet who need not be members of parliament.

Recently, we saw how the French model worked. When, in a referendum, the French rejected the European Union constitution, the Prime Minister resigned. President Chirac appointed the replacement.

The parliament can boot the president out of office in a no-confidence vote. But, at the same time, the president can dissolve parliament by a stroke of the pen. The resulting standoff has stabilized the government. For the past 50 years, no French president has lost his job by means of a no confidence vote.

By the way, the current French model is bicameral: the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate.

De Venecia does not mention the real reason for the proposed shift—money. By fusing the executive and legislative departments, and abolishing the Senate, parliament has total and absolute control of the national budget.

Under the presidential system, budget making is a joint undertaking of the President, Congress and the Senate. But the President disburses the budget. Every time a Congressman wants to draw his pork barrel, he has to go the Department of Budget and Management, hat in hand. This practice is what De Venecia wants to get rid of.

Parliament will prepare, approve and disburse the national budget. The entire budget will be everybody's pork barrel. The greedy majority and the equally greedy opposition members will feed from the same trough. How can De Venecia claim that this arrangement will erase graft and corruption?

Money is the real reason for the proposed shift. There is no other.

3-mall complex worth ₱1B to rise in Ortigas

THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND the local franchises of fastfood chain McDonalds and MC Home Depot is spending P1 billion to put up a complex of malls at the Ortigas property near C-5 Road.

David Wuson, corporate planning head of MC Mall Inc., in a press briefing described the project dubbed Silver City as a tri-mall niche-retail development located on a 4.5 hectare lot between Ortigas Avenue and Julia Vargas Street in Pasig City.

"We have secured a 10-year, lease-development contract with the Ortigas group and we are introducing a pioneering concept focused in the consumer retail and service industry," Wuson said.

About 35 percent of the land is allocated to greenery and landscaping, while the three-level structure will have a covered parking space for 1,400 cars.

Wuson said the main offering of Silver City would be the Auto Mall, a multi-brand one-stop shopping center for motor vehicles and related interests of the motoring public.

The other two malls called Fusion-tech Mall and Wellness Mall would focus on information technology and healthcare products and services, respectively.

"MC Mall-led by chair George Yang (of McDonalds renown) and Lawrence Chung—pioneered in bringing together various brands in one roof as well as providing a sort of permanent trade exhibition for construction and building needs through the local franchise of MC Home Depot," Wuson said.

"Ten years later, we are now applying the concept to the automotive market as well as IT and wellness," he added.

Wuson said Auto Mall, which would open by June, would be the first of its kind in the country with 80-100 brand new cars to be on display plus stores of vehicle accessories, banks and finance service providers, insurance firms, sports and lifestyle boutique and events center.

He said MC Mall wanted to bring in all auto makers and dealers and that it was in talks with majority of these firms.

Fusion-tech Mall, which would open before yearend, would have an anchor 10,000-square-meter call center that would be surrounded by technology oriented retailers.

Wellness Mall, expected to be operational by 2007, would provide wellness and lifestyle products and services including medical clinics, laboratories, pharmaceutical and beauty centers, children's playground, fitness gyms and spas. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

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SC called on to break Malampaya impasse

By Abigail L. Ho

THE SUPREME COURT WILL have to decide soon whether proceeds from the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power project should go to the national government or to the Palawan provincial government.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said in a recent interview that the revenue share issue should be brought to the Supreme Court for a final decision as both the national government and the Palawan provincial government were not about to change their positions on the issue.

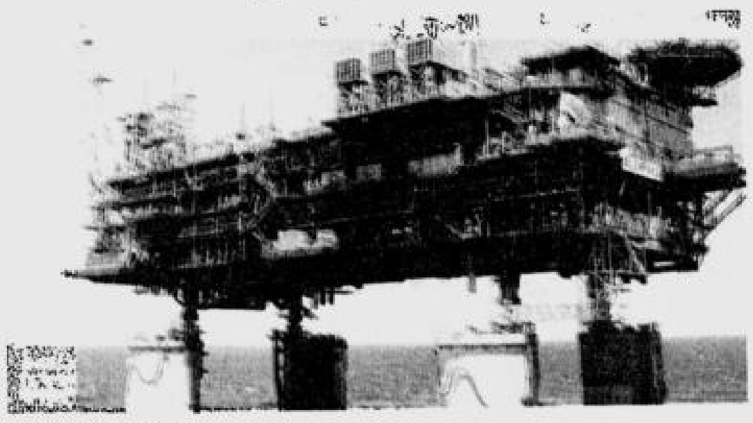
The national government argues that the Malampaya natural gas project is within the national territory, while the province of Palawan, claims that the gas find is within its boundaries.

In February last year, after a protracted dispute on who should get the proceeds from the Malampaya gas find, the national government and the Palawan provincial government agreed to split the net government share until June 30, 2010, or until the court makes its final decision.

Under the agreement, the 40-percent revenue share of the government in the Malampaya project will be divided equally between the national government and the province of Palawan.

The Palawan provincial government's share will be used to bankroll projects that will help preserve, monitor and protect various areas in the province.

These include the North-South Highway, environment preservation and protection projects, and electrification projects involving 431 barangays.



MALAMPAYA rig

Part of the funds will also be used to put up facilities that will boost the security of the exclusive economic zone as well as the ecological resources in the area.

The agreement also says that the P600-million financial assistance that the government already gave the province of Palawan in 2004 would already form part of the province's share from the Malampaya proceeds.

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

MONDAY **ARTS & BOOKS** ● TUESDAY **FITNESS** ● WEDNESDAY **2BU** ● THURSDAY **FOOD** ● FRIDAY **FASHION & BEAUTY**

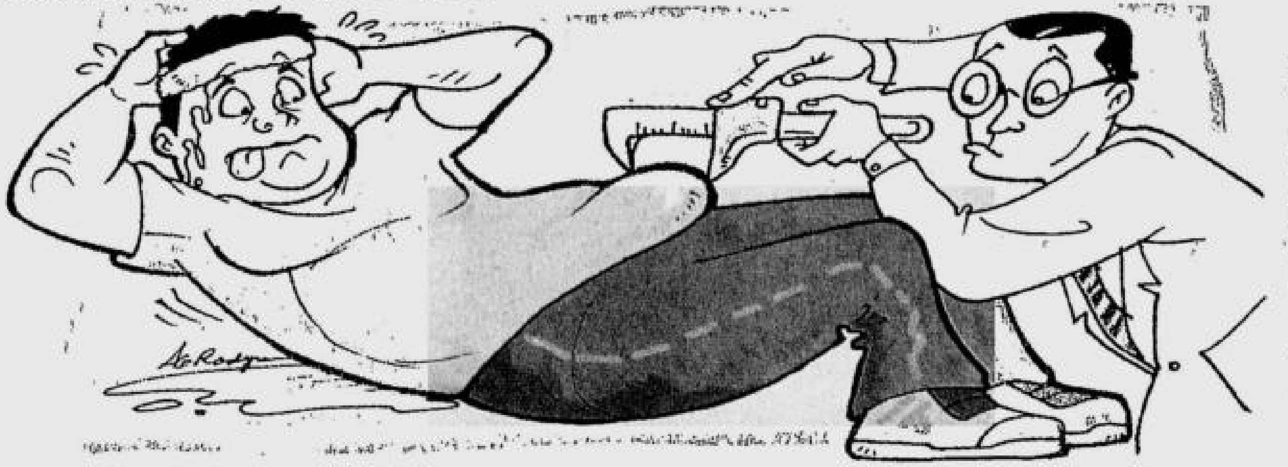


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

Scientific look at abdominal exercises

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

IT IS SAFE TO SAY THERE IS such a thing as ab-exercise obsession.

Abdominal exercise videos and books are usually bestsellers. Pilates classes continue to be popular largely because of the emphasis on shaping and firming the abs and waist. Any class advertised as an "abs class" is sure to be well attended.

However, there are also ab exercise misconceptions. Scientific studies have helped identify what is true and what is false. Here's what research has uncovered:

Upper and lower abs

The *rectus abdominis* is the straight muscle in the middle of your abdomen. It is the only abdominal muscle that can hypertrophy or become bigger. You guessed it, it's also known as the "six-pack" muscle.

Technically speaking, you cannot work the upper and lower *rectus* muscles independently. Research has found that when you do a crunch (lifting the upper body), you will "feel" the exercise more in the upper abdomen because there is more shortening of the muscle fibers in that area. The muscle fibers in the lower abdomen are also shortening but not as much as in the upper region.

When you do a reverse curl (curling the hips), you will "feel" the effort more in the lower abdomen even though the muscle fibers in the upper abs are also working.

Obliques

If you stick your hands into your front jeans pockets, your hands are forming a "V" shape or the direction of the external oblique muscles. If you turn the pockets inside-out, your hands are now forming an upside-down "V" shape or the orientation of the internal oblique muscles.

The external obliques are located in front but the internal obliques wrap around the waist and attach to a diamond shaped connective tissue in the lower back region.

Many people think that the obliques are only worked if you do twists or abdominal exercises with rotation. But they also contract when you do crunches and reverse curls. When you do a reverse curl, the external obliques are more active.

The internal obliques are more involved when you do a crunch. When the internal obliques are strong, they support the middle of the torso like a tight corset. This is the scientific explanation for why crunches can help strengthen the lower back.

Spot reduction

Many people believe abdominal exercises by themselves will lessen the amount of fat they have in the abdomen. But "spot reduction" or the belief that specific localized exercises will reduce the fat on top of the working muscles has already been disproved as far back as 1971 when researchers showed that the dominant arm of tennis players had the same amount of fat as the non-dominant arm.

In a 1984 study at the University of Massachusetts, male participants did the equivalent of 5,000 sit-ups for 27 days. Fat was measured in the abdomen, buttocks and upper back. According to the spot reduction theory, fat should have been reduced only in the abdominal area because the buttocks and upper back were not actively involved in doing a sit-up.

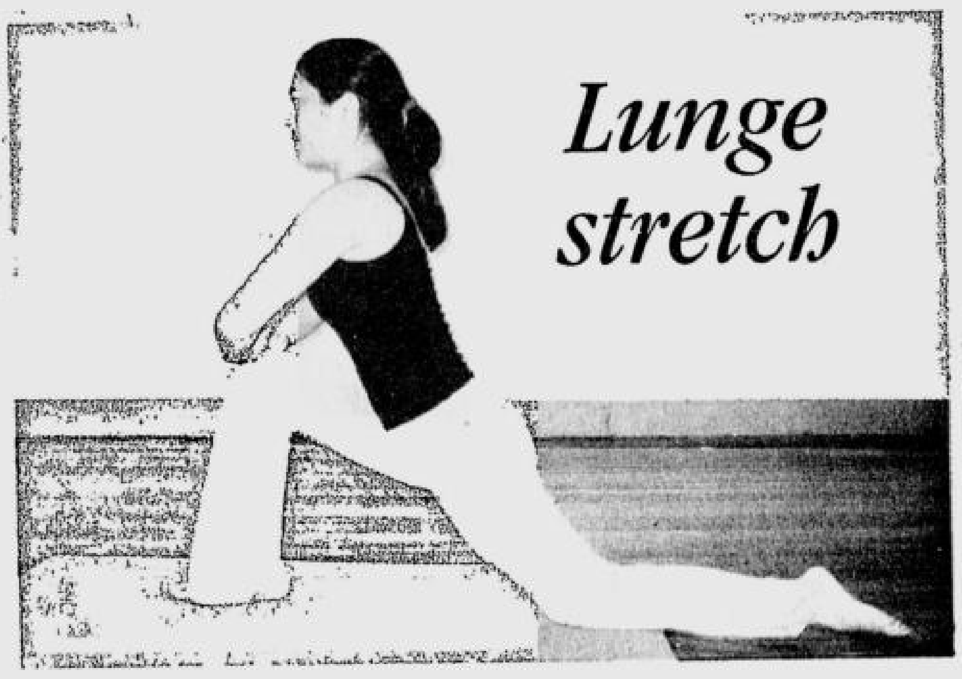
Researchers found that fat was reduced in all three areas but only very slightly (or, as scientists like to say, "not significantly"). There was no real change in the thickness of abdominal subcutaneous fat (read: *bilbil*) or abdominal girth. Fat biopsies showed there was no significant change in the diameter of abdominal fat cells either.

Abdominal exercises can partly help you attain a flatter stomach and smaller waist by strengthening and firming up flabby muscles. To reduce the overlaying fat, you have to lose total body fat by doing aerobic exercise and resistance training, eating a sensible diet and living an active lifestyle.

To read a more in-depth article I have written on spot reduction, go to www.tinajuanfitness.info/articles/art070803.html.

Visit www.tinajuanfitness.info.

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK



Lunge stretch

THIS EXERCISE STRETCHES the front of the hips and thighs.

Equipment:

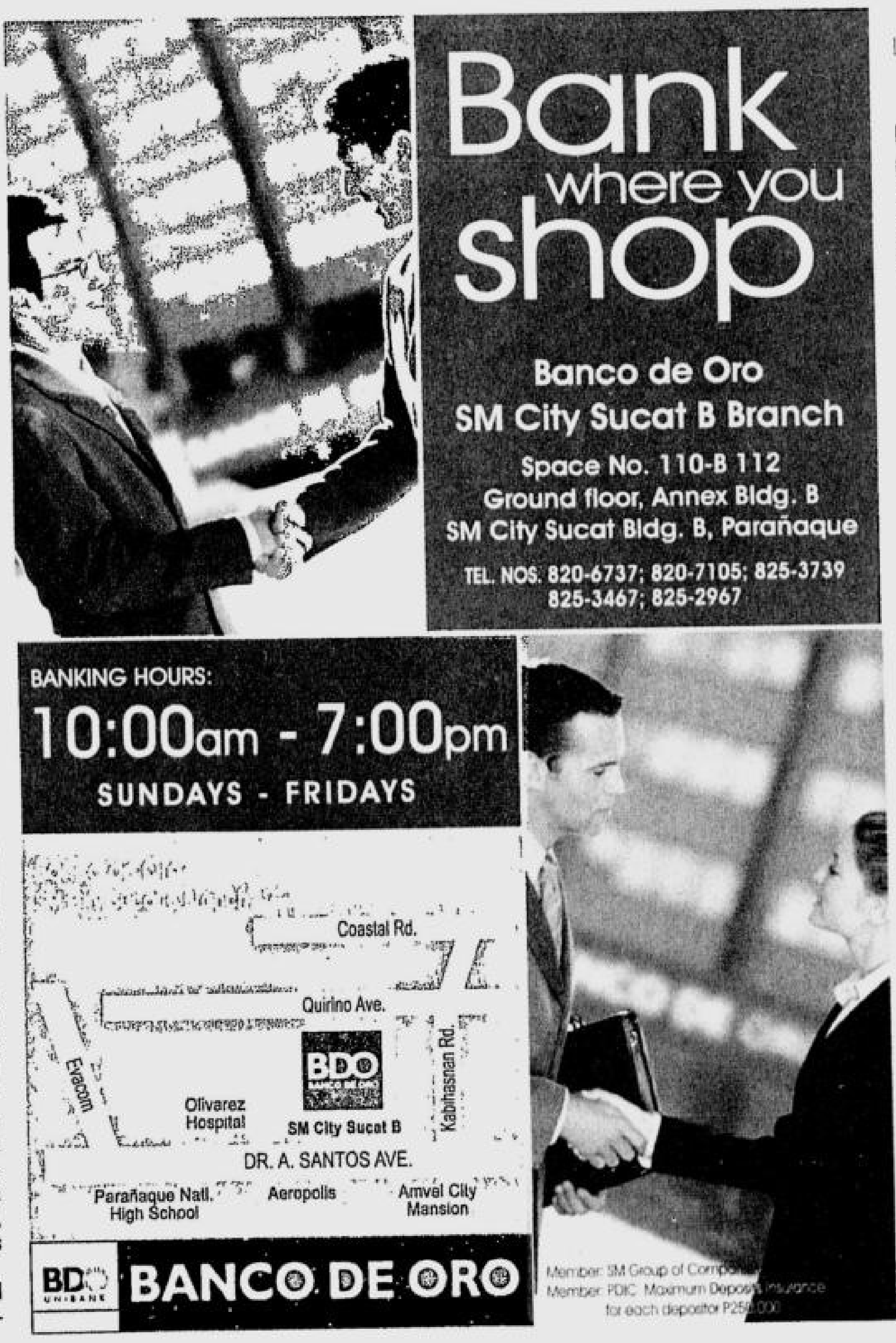
Exercise mat

Exercise technique:

1. Kneel down on hands and knees on an exercise mat.
2. Place your left foot beside your left hand. Move right knee backward until you feel a stretch in the front of the thigh.
3. Keep your hands on the floor and lift your chest.
4. Then put your hands on your thigh. Continue pulling your chest open and pushing your hips forward to increase the stretch .
5. Hold for 10-15 seconds.
6. Do other leg.

Performance tips:

1. Make sure to keep the knee of the leg in front in line with your ankle. Don't allow the knee to go past the toes.
2. Don't hold your breath as you hold the stretch.



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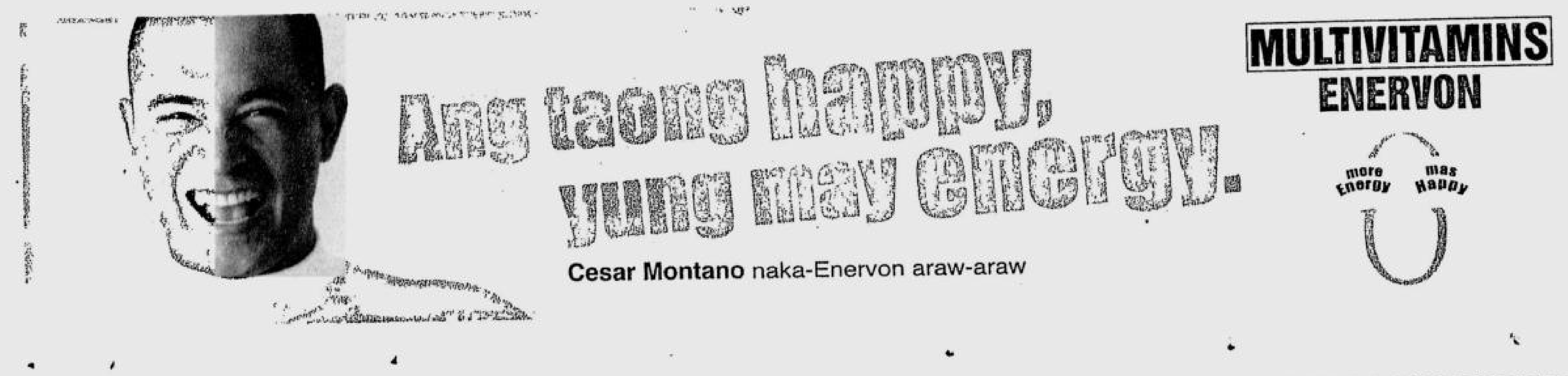
SM DEPARTMENT STORE



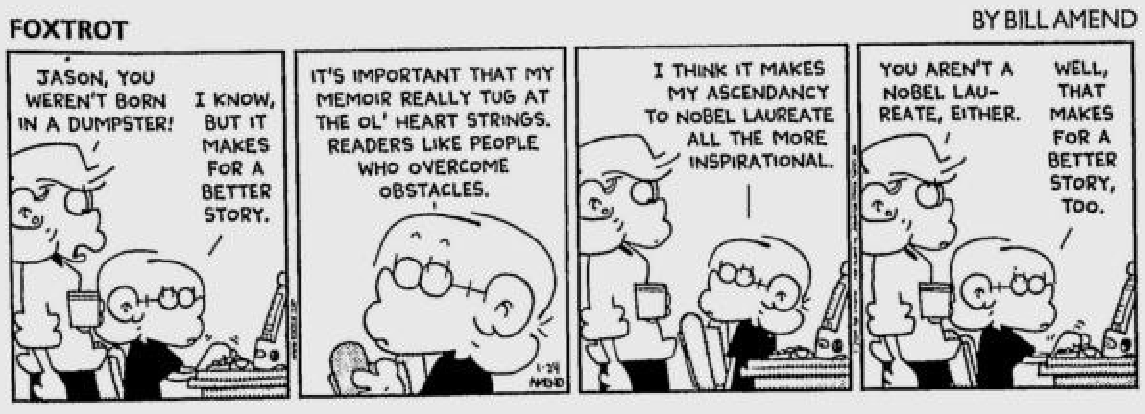
Ang taong happy,
yung may energy.

Cesar Montano naka-Enervon araw-araw

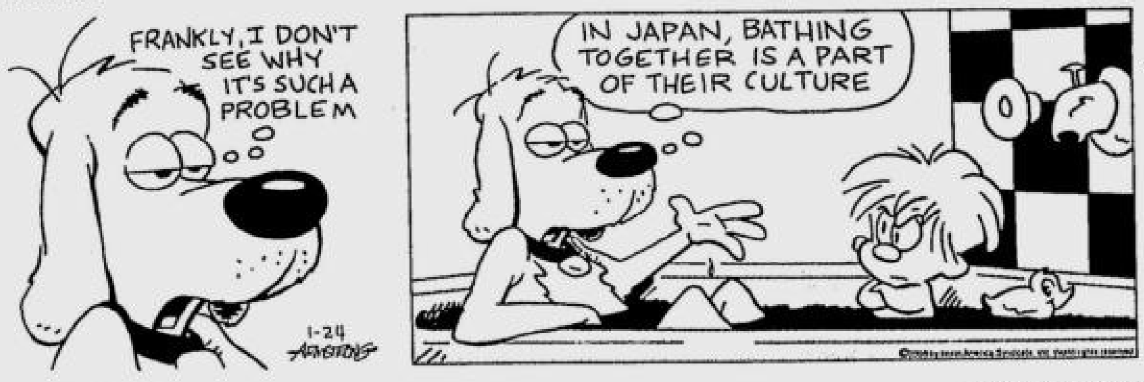
MULTIVITAMINS
ENERVON

more Energy mas Happy

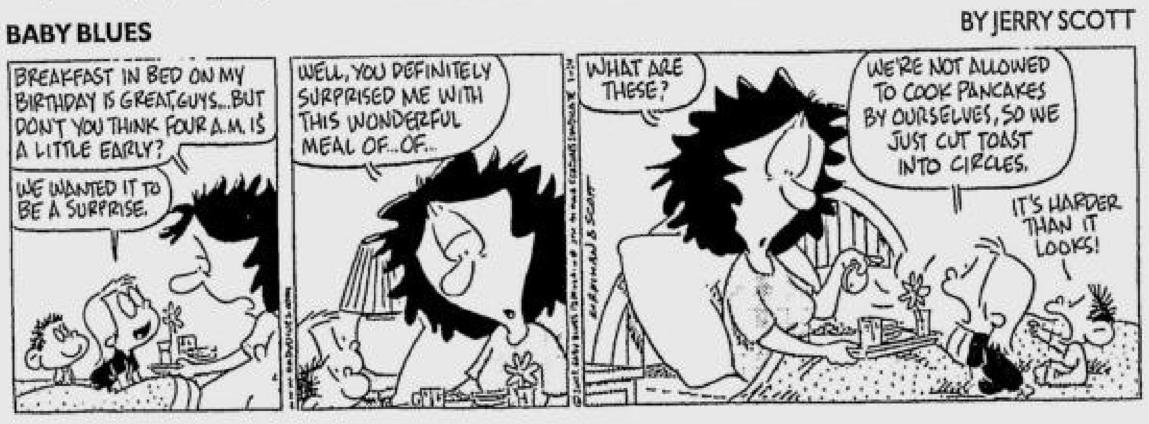
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


JASON, YOU WEREN'T BORN IN A DUMPSTER!
I KNOW, BUT IT MAKES FOR A BETTER STORY.
IT'S IMPORTANT THAT MY MEMOIR REALLY TUG AT THE OL' HEART STRINGS. READERS LIKE PEOPLE WHO OVERCOME OBSTACLES.
I THINK IT MAKES MY ASCENDANCY TO NOBEL LAUREATE ALL THE MORE INSPIRATIONAL.
YOU AREN'T A NOBEL LAUREATE, EITHER.
WELL, THAT MAKES FOR A BETTER STORY, TOO.
1-24 AMEND

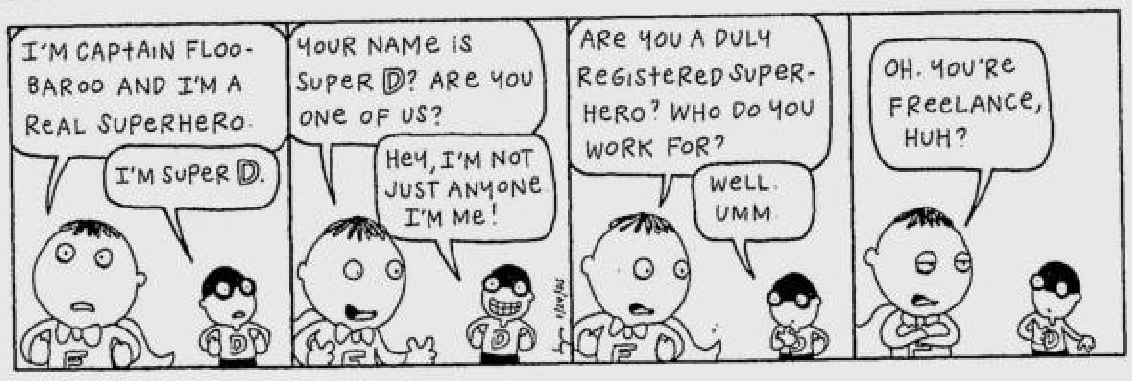
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


FRANKLY, I DON'T SEE WHY IT'S SUCH A PROBLEM
IN JAPAN, BATHING TOGETHER IS A PART OF THEIR CULTURE
1-24 ARMSTRONG

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


BREAKFAST IN BED ON MY BIRTHDAY IS GREAT, GUYS... BUT DON'T YOU THINK FOUR A.M. IS A LITTLE EARLY?
WE WANTED IT TO BE A SURPRISE.
WELL, YOU DEFINITELY SURPRISED ME WITH THIS WONDERFUL MEAL OF... OF...
WHAT ARE THESE?
WE'RE NOT ALLOWED TO COOK PANCAKES BY OURSELVES, SO WE JUST CUT TOAST INTO CIRCLES.
IT'S HARDER THAN IT LOOKS!

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I'M CAPTAIN FLOO-BAROO AND I'M A REAL SUPERHERO.
I'M SUPER D.
YOUR NAME IS SUPER D? ARE YOU ONE OF US?
HEY, I'M NOT JUST ANYONE I'M ME!
ARE YOU A DULY REGISTERED SUPER-HERO? WHO DO YOU WORK FOR?
WELL. UMM.
OH. YOU'RE FREELANCE, HUH?

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: People admire you. It seems as if you don't even have to do anything special. You have a magnetism that attracts others to you. You're active in many areas. You have strong opinions. Never doubt that others respect you. The year ahead is beautifully social. Singles could meet new love!
Birthdate of: Mischa Barton, actress; Neil Diamond, singer; Edith Wharton, author.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a lovely day to talk to friends and groups. You feel philosophical and particularly interested in political issues. You're open to what others have to say.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a good day to meet others halfway in discussions about shared property. You're in a very reasonable frame of mind. Fortunately, so are others. It's a good day for business.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Today the Moon is opposite your sign, making lovely aspects to Mercury and the Sun. Furthermore, Mercury is your ruler. This means things flow easily in the way you want, especially in discussions with partners and friends.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is an excellent day to attend to little details and get better organized at home and at work. Just go at an easy pace. It's a good day to ask for a loan.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This can be a fun day for you! It's also a lovely day to enjoy playful activities with children. Professional sports, romance, flirtations and creative projects will go well.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Domestic discussions with family members, and parents in particular, might be on your agenda today. Good. This is a good day for this sort of thing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a busy day; however, it's also an upbeat, friendly day. Enjoy talking to acquaintances and siblings. Run around and get little errands done. The world is cooperating!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This afternoon is a good day for shopping and for business and commerce (but not this morning). It's also a good day to enter into negotiations or sign contracts.

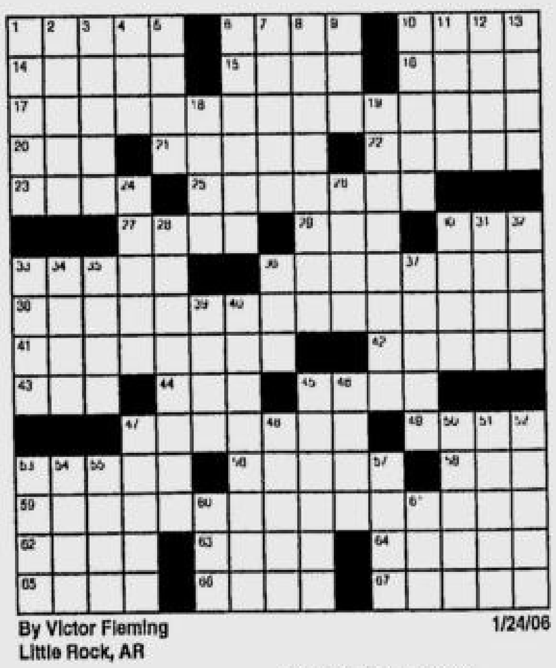
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): The Moon is in your sign today. You feel great! Today the world owes you a favor. (And you know it's time to collect!)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Any spare moments of solitude will please you today. Try to make a little time just for you today. At least sneak away for cup of coffee somewhere.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You can rouse the troops today! You're very effective talking to friends and groups or clubs. Others are willing to follow you now.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Briefly, you will be in the public eye today. People will notice you. Fear not, they will see you in positive terms. You're confident, friendly and capable.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Victor Fleming
Little Rock, AR
1/24/06

ACROSS
1 Dot on a map
6 Part of "M*A*S*H"
10 Bubble maker
14 Bete __ (pet peeve)
15 Deviates off course
16 Quaker State port
17 Jar into reality
20 Imitator
21 Couric of TV
22 Desert havens
23 Wall St. letters
25 University in Deland, FL
27 Tres y tres
29 Part of rpm
30 Audit pro
33 Appropriate
36 Nor I, informally
38 Try not to be seen
41 Waned
42 Brings in
43 Tippler
44 Sinbad's bird
45 Lab gel
47 O'Toole or Bening
49 Leave text in!
53 Wise saying
56 Apollo's birthplace
58 Boat propeller
59 Agree with, generally
62 Oven setting
63 Formicary residents
64 Church passage
65 Colonial blackbirds
66 RBI or ERA
67 Allotted, with "out"

DOWN
1 "Newsboy" painter Henry
2 Lathered up
3 Preferences
4 Afore
5 Warp-resistant wood
6 Regency hotels
7 Funny Jack of Hollywood
8 Climbing plant
9 Nittany Lions' sch.
10 Thin-shelled nut
11 Pension $$
12 Heap
13 Slippery swimmers
18 Past tense query
19 Unworkable suggestion
24 Annual sports awards
26 Witnessed
28 Xerox LAN
30 "Mask" star
31 Hammer part
32 Boats like Noah's
33 Two-stripers: abbr.
34 Bread spread
35 Tobacco kiln
36 Part of MD
37 Rulers before Lenin
39 Party to
40 Dead person
45 Finally!
46 H.S. math class
47 De Mille of the dance
48 Kornel's coat
50 Drinker's salute
51 Philly pro
52 Cornered
53 Swedish pop group
54 College VIP
55 Golfer Isao
57 Sewing line
60 Possessos
61 Chart type

Monday's Puzzle Solved

C	A	R	D	■	M	U	F	F	S	■	T	H	E	N
O	L	I	O	■	A	G	R	E	E	■	E	E	R	O
H	A	M	M	E	R	H	E	A	D	■	L	A	I	D
N	I	S	E	I	S	■	E	T	A	G	E	R	E	S
■	■	■	D	R	U	B	■	S	N	A	G	■	■	■
M	A	L	■	E	P	E	E	■	S	T	R	A	W	S
A	L	U	M	■	I	N	N	S	■	E	A	G	A	N
T	O	P	E	S	A	N	D	A	N	D	M	A	K	O
T	H	U	L	E	■	Y	O	G	A	■	S	P	E	W
E	A	S	I	N	G	■	N	E	T	S	■	E	N	S
■	■	■	O	N	E	S	■	R	A	K	L	■	■	■
O	V	E	R	A	W	E	S	■	N	E	T	H	E	R
V	E	R	A	■	G	R	E	A	T	W	H	I	T	E
A	L	I	T	■	A	V	A	I	L	■	E	R	N	E
L	A	C	E	■	W	O	R	D	Y	■	R	E	A	L

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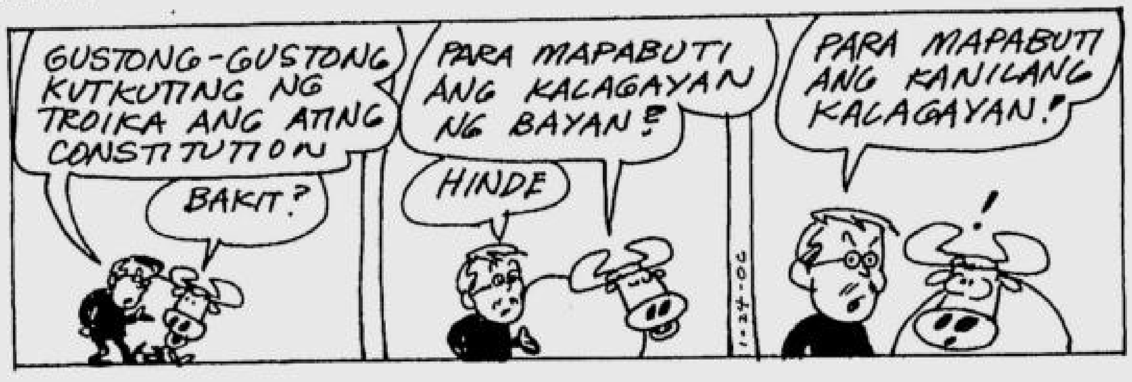
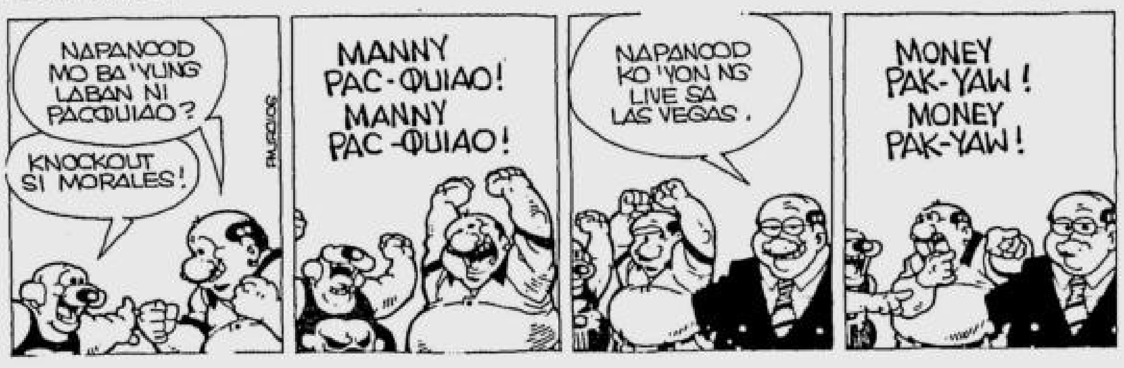
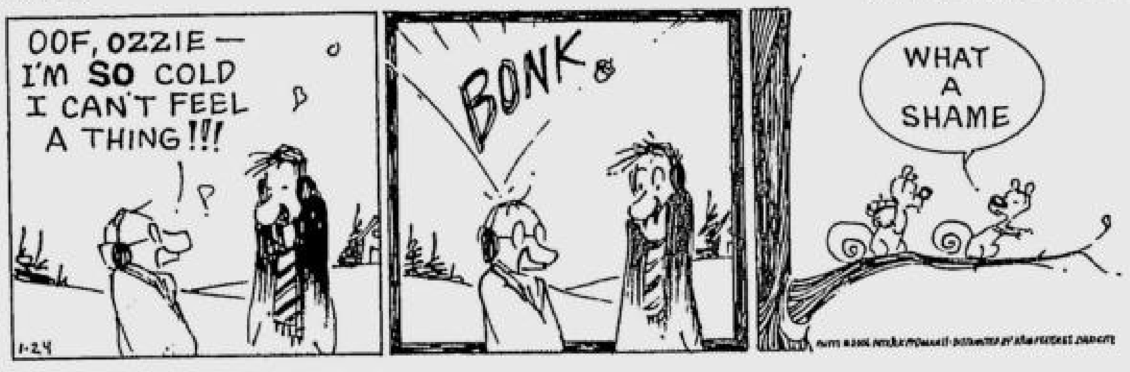
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


GUSTONG-GUSTONG KUTKUTING NG TROIKA ANG ATING CONSTITUTION
BAKIT?
PARA MAPABUTI ANG KALAGAYAN NG BAYAN?
HINDE
PARA MAPABUTI ANG KANILANG KALAGAYAN!
!

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

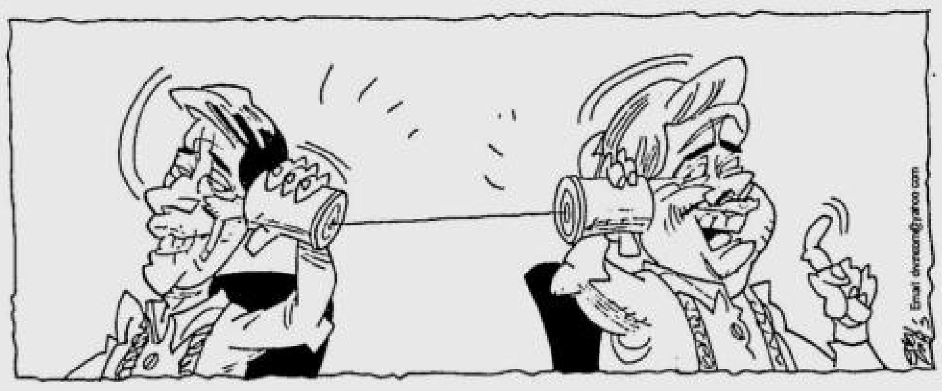

NAPANOOD MO BA 'YUNG LABAN NI PACQUIAO?
KNOCKOUT SI MORALES!
MANNY PAC-QUIAO! MANNY PAC-QUIAO!
NAPANOOD KO 'YON NG LIVE SA LAS VEGAS.
MONEY PAK-YAW! MONEY PAK-YAW!

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

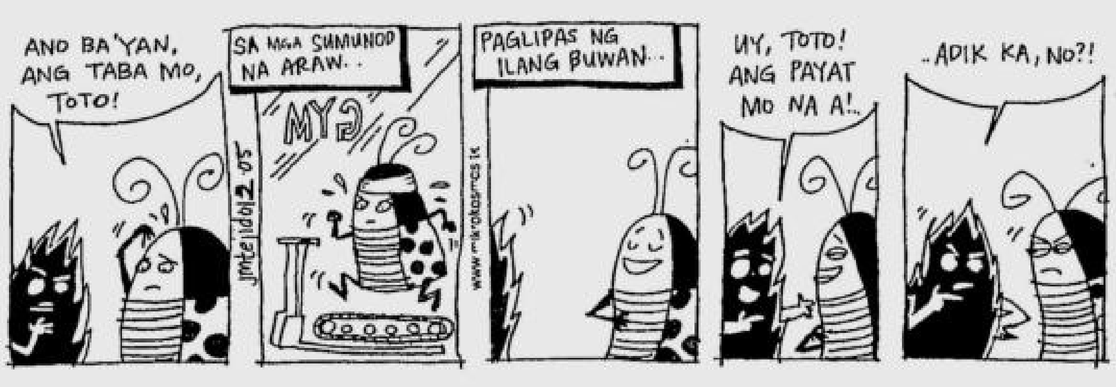

OOF, OZZIE — I'M SO COLD I CAN'T FEEL A THING!!!
BONK
WHAT A SHAME
1-24

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

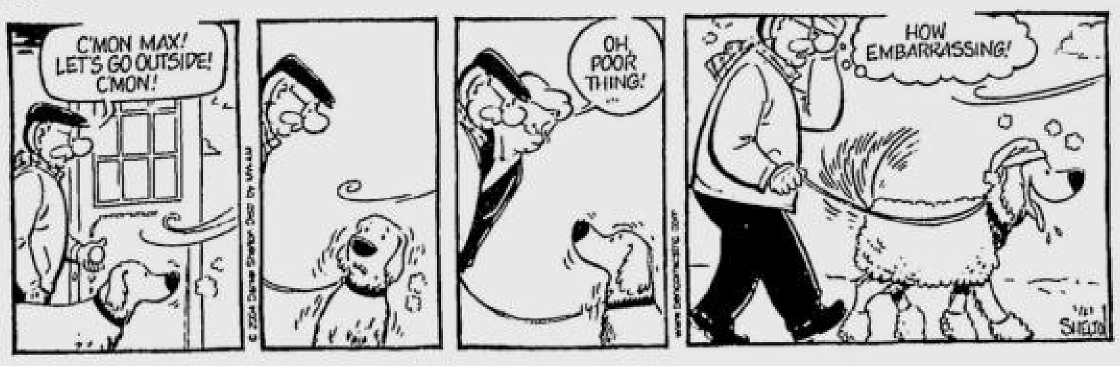
MAY BAGONG "MEANS OF COMMUNICATION" ANG MGA PULITIKONG TAKOT MAWIRE-TAP



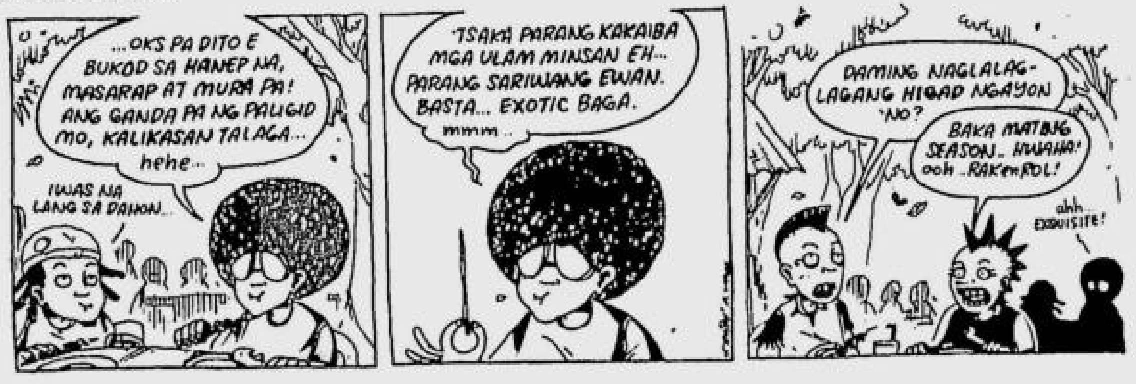
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANO BA'YAN, ANG TABA MO, TOTO!
SA MGA SUMUNOD NA ARAW..
MYG
PAGLIPAS NG ILANG BUWAN..
UY, TOTO! ANG PAYAT MO NA A!..
..ADIK KA, NO?!
www.mikrokosmos.tk

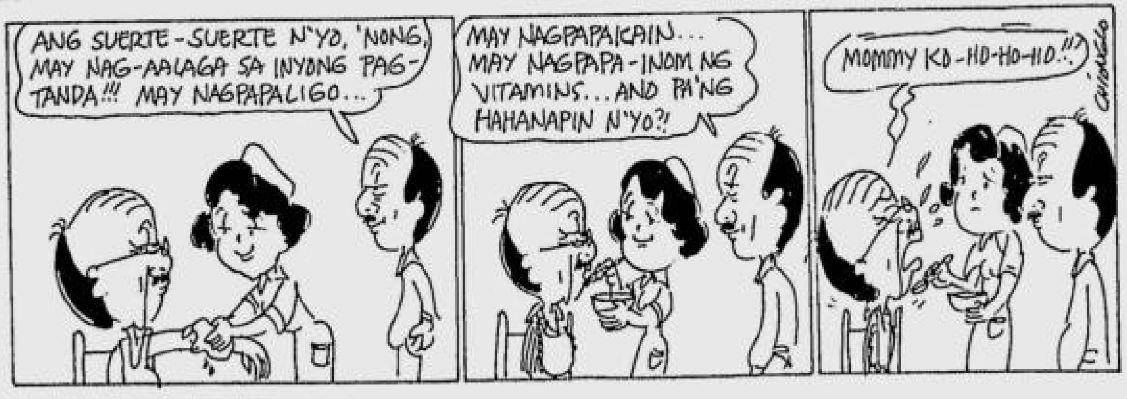
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


C'MON MAX! LET'S GO OUTSIDE! C'MON!
OH, POOR THING!
HOW EMBARRASSING!
SHELTON

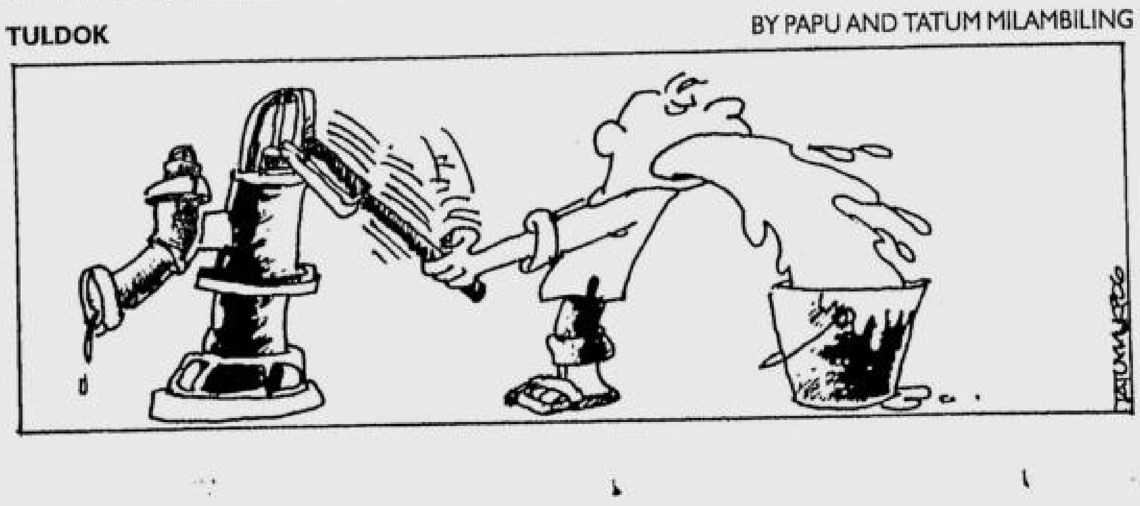
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


...OKS PA DITO E BUKOD SA HANEP NA, MASARAP AT MURA PA! ANG GANDA PA NG PALIGID MO, KALIKASAN TALAGA... hehe..
IWAS NA LANG SA DAHON..
'TSAKA PARANG KAKAIBA MGA ULAM MINSAN EH... PARANG SARIWANG EWAN. BASTA... EXOTIC BAGA. mmm..
DAMING NAGLALAG-LAGANG HIGAD NGAYON 'NO?
BAKA MATBIG SEASON.. HWAHA! ooh ..RAKenROL!
ahh... EXQUISITE!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANG SUERTE-SUERTE N'YO, 'NONG, MAY NAG-AALAGA SA INYONG PAG-TANDA!!! MAY NAGPAPALIGO...
MAY NAGPAPAKAIN... MAY NAGPAPA-INOM NG VITAMINS... ANO PA'NG HAHANAPIN N'YO?!
MOMMY KO-HO-HO-HO!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



GEORGE Prinz; one of the hosts, young good-looker Raymond Lim Joseph; and Maridore Macaraig

GULF Air asset, Suzette Tongson; Angel Bognot, and one of the hosts, Robert Lim Joseph

TWO Victorias: Vicky Lopez-Tuazon and Vicky Fernandez Zubiri

DEAN Barbers, vivaciously adorable Leah Navarro and Leonardo Arguelles

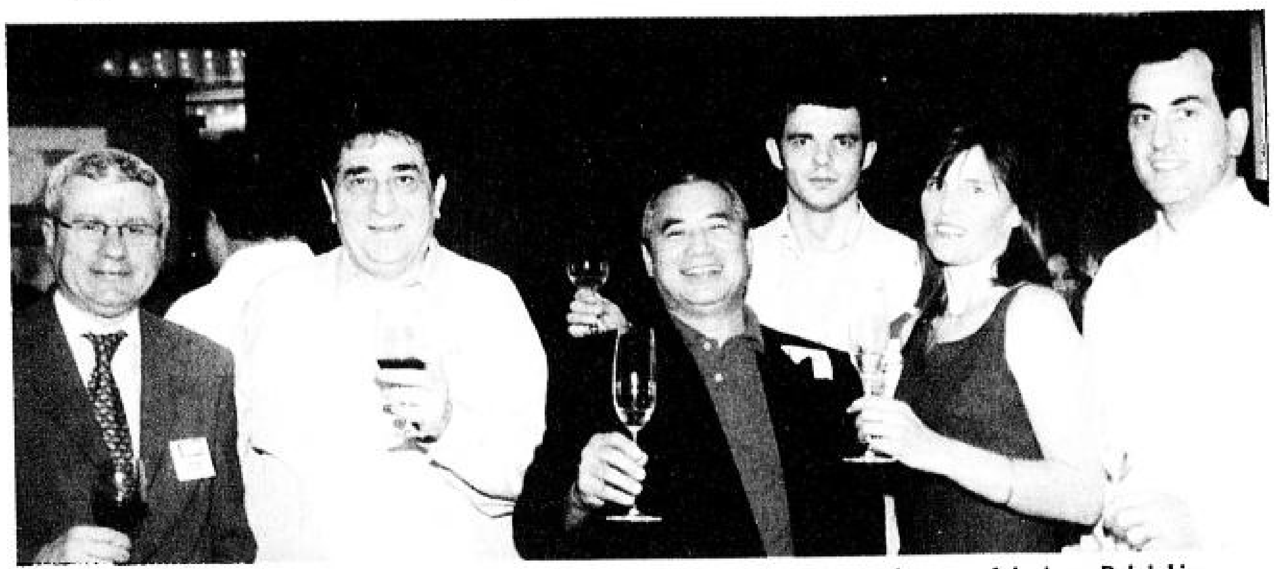
A thousand people in high spirits

YOUNG business entrepreneur and owner of the hip boutique Gotham, extremely intelligent Antonia Ticzon Martel

PATSY Francisco with daughter-in-law Irene Martel Francisco of Philippine Tatler and granddaughter Isabel

SISTERS TWO: Ariana and Katrina Ramnani

KRISTAL Bagatsing and Rumples Estacio



AMBASSADOR Mario Schuff of Argentina, Ambassador Radu Homesco of Romania, man of the hour Ralph Lim Joseph, Doris Serbans, and New World Hotel's first couple, Catriona S. and husband Stephan Stoss

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using **Kodak** EasyShare system

RALPH'S WINES AND SPIRITS AND Philippine Wine Merchants, the country's foremost authorities on wines and liquors, held the awesome 5th Wine Tasting Festival that lived up to its billing as the Philippines' and Southeast Asia's grandest and biggest event. Connoisseurs, VIPs and neophytes tasted nearly 500 wines from 16 different countries.

The ballroom of the popular New World Renaissance Hotel in Makati was jam-packed as 1,000 guests turned up to savor once again the best wines, which were matched with sumptuous cuisine prepared by talented **Colin Owen Healy**, the hotel's executive chef, and his team.

Highlight of the event was the raffle of attractive prizes from partner companies. The award-winning Gulf Air, *natch*, gave away tickets to Johannesburg and Paris.

Brothers four **Robert, Ralph, Ronald** and **Raymond Joseph**, co-owners of Philippine Wine Merchants and Ralph's, personally welcomed the guests and introduced them to the various fine wines.

Argentinean Ambassador **Mario Schuff**, Chilean Ambassador **Jorge Montero**, Japanese Ambassador **Ryuichiro Yamazaki** and Romanian Ambassador **Radu Homesco**, along with the Joseph brothers, got the event rolling with a ceremonial toast.

Among the hundreds of wines, *palanggas*, were award-winners from Montes, Yalumba, Bodegas Chivite, Bolla, Wente Vineyards, Prahova Valley, Santa Carolina and Lindemans.

The sumptuous eastern cuisine included roast Peking duck with hoisin and cranberry sauce, Asian steak *au poivre*, Salmon rilletes with Asian spices, and rosemary-spiked roast leg of lamb with mint and onion sauce.

Other sponsors, aside from Gulf Air, were Rustan's, Shopwise, Stores Specialists Inc., Starbucks Coffee and Philippine Airlines, dahlings.

Given the event's major success for the last five years, organizers plan to extend the festival to four awesome days and three nights. The Philippine Tourism Authority and the Department of Tourism have already expressed support of the event as part of their thrust to attract tourists and to get us all in really high spirits, dahlings.

Gotham fashion

Our town's fashion-forward set dashed over to Harrison Plaza for the grand opening of young and extremely intelligent **Maria Antonia Martel**'s fab Gotham boutique.

The invitees gushed over the luxe, cool interiors, including all the furniture, designed by Antonia herself, *palanggas*. That included the wow leopard-print sofas and the dark-wood counter. The bright-pink walls and Italian chandelier added instant glamour, giving one the feeling of being inside a chic Park Avenue boutique.

We were all treated to cocktails and excellently prepared hors d'oeuvre by Le Souffle, no less, as everyone browsed through the newest and hippest clothing lines and accessories fresh from the Big Apple, dahlings. Young and young at heart socialites, squealing in delight, snapped up the contemporary cool, chic summer offerings, like the dangerously low Frankie B. jeans, Paige Premium Denim (with its more "forgiving" fit), Catch a Fire T-shirts (designed by the great **Bob Marley**'s daughter, **Cedella**, no less), Romeo and Juliet's Swarovski-encrusted tank tops, Cosabella undies, Hanky-panky thongs, Michael Stars shirts and tunics, embellished Amici and Tali's belts, Noir jewelry, Mella flip-flops, and tons of other exciting new brands, *palanggas*.

Early birds were the attractive Atienza sisters; Manila Vice Mayor **Danny** and **Inday Lacuna**, with daughter, councilor **Honey Lacuna**; **Marc Llamas**; **Krizia Ty**; **Catleya Nielsen**; **Don** and **Norma Sanders**; **Jun** and **Evelyn Laurel**; **JB** and **Gemma Laurel**, plus others like them too fashionable to mention, dahlings.

Naturellement, Antonia's proud parents were there, **Don Antonio** and statuesque **Belen Martel**; as well as Philippine Tatler's **Irene Martel-Francisco** and daughter **Isabel**; **Tonette P. Martel**, on a rare late afternoon outing; HP mall manager **Erik Martel**; **Etelka Martel**; **Juliet L. Ticzon**; **Benny** and **Ophie Clemente**, with daughters **Lhinkee, Rahelle** and **Suzanne**; **Ina Ticzon** and her steady bear, **Bogs Adornado**; Dr. **Luisa Ticzon**; **Lala Ticzon**; **Arlene, Vince, Adolf** and **Julius Ticzon**.

Check out those super trendy, cool Kooba bags, as well as more hip jeans and exciting eye-catching clothing lines.

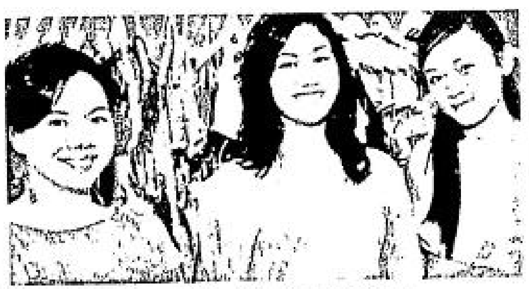
Hey, summer is just a wink away, *palanggas*.

WINE LOVERS: Jeny Chan, Johnny Duran, gorgeous Dina Bonnevie and Billy Wyland

MANUEL Fragante, Gulf Air's Lara Marie-Torres, Michelle Tinio Arce, and Bobby Hukom

COUNCILOR Honey Lacuna, Don Antonio Martel Jr., Inday Lacuna and Belen Lovina Ticzon Martel

WE ARE FAMILY: Lala R. Ticzon, Portia Santos, Liza Ticzon and Troy Ticzon



GOTHAM fans: Kate Santos, Chinkee Clemente and Chichi Atienza

LANI Atienza-Beltran and Analei Atienza

SANSAN Clemente, Pauline Santos, Portia Santos, Leilei Clemente and Ina Ticzon

---

Science isn't only source of truth

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

I WAS A GUEST RECENTLY IN A TELEVISION show on ANC hosted by Ces Drilon . The topic was "Astrology and Science" and the other two guests were a geologist from the University of the Philippines and a well-known political astrologer.

The scientist said we should rely only on scientific knowledge in predicting what was to come, because it was proven and therefore highly reliable. Other sources of information not based on science could not be relied upon.

The astrologer, on the other hand, said the positions of planets and other heavenly configurations influenced events and the behavior of people, and could also be fairly reliable predictors of things to come.

I held a middle position. I saw no incompatibility in the various sources of knowledge because "truth is one, and cannot contradict itself." Whether information came from science, astrology or the devil himself, if it was true, it could not contradict other true information.

The scientist said India had many astrologers and fortunetellers, but it was not as progressive as some western countries that relied on science in making political and economic decisions.

"Why are we not afraid to ride an airplane or spaceship?" he asked. "Because we know it is scientifically made and can be relied upon to fly and land us safely."

He continued, "The problem with this country is that science is not given the importance it deserves. To make progress, we have to spend more on scientific research."

He pointed out that even sixth graders could not do simple addition and subtraction. "If we do not even have knowledge of the fundamentals of science, how can we build a really strong scientific culture?"

I said I did not think there was any question about the need for a strong scientific education. I was all for scientific knowledge. One could not argue against the need for scientific proof and validation of things we knew. We should have more science in the curriculum.

The problem was we often failed to realize that science did not cover the whole of reality. The scientific method was devised to study only physical reality. Within that realm, the scientific method was perfect. We could not improve on it.

To prove something was physically true, it should follow strict scientific methodology. I agreed completely with this.

But what if we were dealing with nonphysical reality, for example ghosts, astral projection, paranormal phenomena—things clearly outside the scope of science? How could we rely on science to guide us? It could not, not because it was wrong but because it was not meant to tackle these areas.

Not having any principles to deal with nonphysical reality, science could not say these realities did not exist. Just because one could not prove the astral body in the laboratory did not mean it was not true.

As the philosopher Soren Kierkegaard pointed out, "There are two ways to be fooled. One is to believe what isn't so. The other is to refuse to believe what is so."

Incomplete

The problem I have with science or with the scientific method is not that it is wrong but that it is incomplete. It does not and cannot go beyond what can be seen, heard, felt, weighed, smelled and tasted, or quantified in some way.

But there are other ways of looking at reality aside from the scientific paradigm. The big problem with critics of these other paradigms is that they have never bothered to look at proofs presented in support of these other ways. There are thousands of them.

The scientist guest on that TV interview said he never heard of any. That's the problem, I said. I told him that, in the 1940s, Dr. J.B. Rhine of Duke University in North Carolina, United States, proved under strict laboratory-controlled conditions that psychic powers like telepathy and clairvoyance really existed.

It was Dr. Rhine who coined the term "extra sensory perception" (ESP) to refer to that ability that seemed to go beyond the five senses, a kind of sixth sense. Though the work of Dr. Rhine had many detractors in the scientific community, no one ever proved that his conclusions were not valid.

More recently, in the '70s, Dr. Russell Targ and Harold Puthoff at the Stanford Research Institute proved human awareness could be projected to a specific location, which a person had never visited before, allowing him/her to describe it accurately. Both scientists have Ph.D.'s in physics.

At Princeton University's Anomalous Phenomena Department, Dr. Robert Jahne, who has a Ph.D. in Engineering, and psychologist Brenda Dunne validated, after years of meticulous study, the ability of the human mind to influence, through telekinesis, the fall of the dice in a roulette game.

Many other scientific studies in this field were done in Russia and other Eastern European countries. To say there is no scientific proof of psychic phenomena is to betray one's ignorance of this very important field of knowledge.

The next Basic ESP and Intuition Development seminar will be held 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Feb. 4-5, in Cagayan de Oro City. Contact Melissa Robante at 0917-7120253.

Drugs do not always cure

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

IT IS A DRUG-ORIENTED world with a pill for every ache, a prescription for every ailment.

While drugs are a marvel of the modern age, curing many diseases, they may not be the answer to every illness.

Take the story of Ray D. Strand, MD. His wife Liz had fibronyalgia or psychosomatic rheumatism. Early symptoms were fatigue, pain and weakness. Strand prescribed anti-inflammatories for the pain, tranquilizers for sleep, muscle relaxants, antihistamines for allergies, antibiotics for infections.

Every year his wife's health deteriorated. Then one day, Liz learned about nutritional supplements and how they helped a friend's husband recover.

The doctor encouraged his wife to explore the possibility of taking the supplements as a new health practice. She took vitamins O and E, and beta-carotene that had loads of antioxidants.

After three days, she felt better and, after three weeks on this nutritional diet, she decided to cut down on her medication. Three months later, she felt good as new.

Good and bad

Oxygen is necessary for life, but it can also be dangerous. This is the oxygen paradox.

Oxidative stress results in clearly observed damage to the cell by free radicals. The only way to fight it is through the intake of antioxidants.

It has been established through scientific research that oxidative stress is "the root cause of more than seven degenerative diseases"—diabetes, cancer, strokes, arthritis, multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's dementia, coronary artery disease.

Dr. Kenneth Cooper (father of the term aerobics), in his book "The Antioxidant Revolution," expounded on the importance of preventive medicine. He said what was plaguing humankind today was oxidative stress.

We are, as they say, rusting from inside. In brief, this is how it works.

There is a regular, day-to-day breakdown of oxygen in our body. During this process, a free radical is born that can cause a chain reaction. Wherever this reaction happens is exactly where cell breakdown will occur that will lead to disease.

Normal metabolism in the cell to create energy is oxidation through the natural process of using oxygen.

"Free radicals are oxygen molecules or atoms that have at least one unpaired electron in their outer orbit." If unchecked, they can cause havoc in our system. To the rescue—antioxidants.

Antioxidant army

An antioxidant is a substance with the capacity to give up an electron to a free radical to keep it balanced. The human body already has an army of antioxidants. However, our bodies do not produce all we need. The rule is, the more damage, the more help we need.

The problem is aggravated by poor diet, stress and exposure to toxins like pesticides, chemicals, pollution, excessive exercise, cigarette smoke, UVA (ultraviolet A) and UVB (ultraviolet B) rays from the sun, excessive intake of drugs, chemotherapeutic medication, radiation therapy.

Live till you die

Our bodies are our Earth suits. While we use them, we wear them down. To make sure they serve us well, ensure that they get the necessary care by:

- Eating a balanced diet, adding more greens and fruits
- Exercising moderately
- Getting enough sleep and relaxation
- Making prayer and meditation daily habits
- Taking your supplements of multimineral-multivitamin pill or vitamin C, 1000-2000 mg; vitamin A (beta-carotene, 10,000 iu); lycopene 1-3 mg; lutein/zeaxanthin 1-6 mg; alpha-carotene 500-800 mcg; vitamin E, 400-800 iu; bioflavonoids (green tea, grapeseed extract, bromelain, broccoli); alpha-lipoic acid, 15-30 mg; COQ10, 20-30 mg; vitamin B complex; mineral complex; fish oil capsules or cold flaxseed oil
- Adding fiber, 10-30 mg (soluble and insoluble), daily

Tricia Rhodes, in her book "Taking Up Your Cross," shares this profound thought: "Always remember the brevity of life, the certainty of death and the length of eternity."

So, let's live until we die. But, until then, enjoy your body by making it work for you, your goals, your dreams, your ultimate fulfillment.

Love and light!

Reference: "What Your Doctor Doesn't Know about Nutritional Medicine Maybe Killing You", by Ray Strand, M.D.

E-mail the author at coryquirino_fy@yahoo.com.

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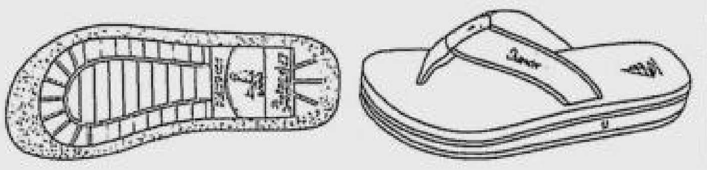

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Redefining beauty basics

BIORICA enhances Cheska Garcia's natural beauty by keeping her skin flawless.

CHESKA GARCIA, ONE OF TODAY'S MOST celebrated faces, is the very image of beauty, youth, verve and health.

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Biorica helps keep her skin blemish-free and flawless. The French brand draws from nature elements that revitalize, rejuvenate and invigorate the skin. It is founded on holistic methods in caring for the body and skin and goes beyond the surface.

Biorica is the first and only skin care line that uses the salivary extract of the Hirudo Medicinalis (medicinal leech) as main ingredient. Research reveals the extract contains the enzyme Hirudin, reputedly the world's most powerful anticoagulant. The enzyme has been used in the medical field for decades.

Another enzyme, Eglin, has been found to be a very potent antioxidant, effectively fighting the process of human skin aging.

An international scientific committee composed of French, Russian and Spanish doctors investigated, prepared and validated the properties of Hirudo Medicinalis extract, doing research and testing for 10 years. Biorica then integrated the enzymes into its products, formulating three different ranges—Hm1, Hm2 and Hm3.

The Hm1 range contains a regular concentration of the salivary extract and comes in the form of creams. Aside from the Hm extract, this range also contains other natural ingredients like organic olive oil, shea butter, marine collagen, elastin, grape seeds and more. The Hm1 line consists of face-care products that tone and moisturize the skin aside from correcting blemishes and promoting skin radiance. The line also contains hand- and foot-care products.

The versatility of long hair

SPORTY Anne Curtis

SWEET and sexy

HAIRSTYLIST FANNY SERRANO likes women to wear their hair long.

Long hair, he says, lets a woman or her hairdresser create various characters, reinventing the person as the occasion demands.

Serrano expects that in 2006 long hair will remain popular, though new styles might be introduced.

However, he says, instead of straight, flowing long hair, this year's look will be more about waves and curls that look sexy.

Serrano says it is not difficult for a woman to reinvent herself through a different hairstyle. With actress and fellow Head & Shoulders Conditioner endorser Anne Curtis, Serrano demonstrates a few easy ways to change hairdos.

He gives Curtis a sporty ponytail artistically tied in place with the use of her own hair instead of clips or bands. Serrano says the sporty look is perfect for a day of badminton.

He also creates a sweet and sexy look for Curtis, letting her hair tumble in shiny curls down her back with a few elegant strands around her face. Matched with a ruffled miniskirt and a dressy pastel top from Petit Monde, Serrano says the look is perfect for work or a date.

For special occasions, he creates a sophisticated look for Curtis with an upswept hairstyle with an intricate array of knots and curls on the top of her head. Glittery earrings from Happy David and a sheath dress prepare Curtis for an awards-night dinner or a cocktail party.

Serrano stresses that hair should always be in good condition. The basics of hair grooming—shampooing and conditioning hair regularly—should be observed.

He says daily conditioning is a must, the conditioner applied as if the hair is being massaged from roots to tips.

For dandruff and itchy scalp, Serrano suggests a good anti-itch hair product like Head & Shoulders Total Conditioner. He says the product gives the same smoothness as regular conditioners but with the added benefit of up to 100-percent itch protection.

To maintain a new hairstyle, Serrano also recommends a hot oil treatment and a visit to a salon once a week if possible.

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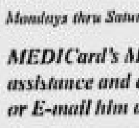
What is cancer and its causes?

Cancer is a group of many related diseases that begin in cells, the body's basic unit of life. The body is made up of many types of cells. Normally, cells grow and divide to produce more cells only when the body needs them. This orderly process helps keep the body healthy. Sometimes, however, cells keep dividing when new cells are not needed. These extra cells form a mass of tissue called a growth or tumor. But not all tumors are cancerous or malignant. Some are benign tumors, which are not cancer. They can often be removed and, in most cases, they do not come back. Cells from benign tumors do not spread to other parts of the body. Most important, benign tumors are rarely a threat to life. Malignant tumors are cancer. Cells in these tumors are abnormal and divide without control or order. They can invade and damage nearby tissues and organs. Also, cancer cells can break away from a malignant tumor and enter the bloodstream or the lymphatic system. That is how cancer spreads from the original cancer site to form new tumors in other organs. The spread of cancer is called metastasis. Cancer develops over time. It is a result of a complex mix of factors related to lifestyle, heredity, and environment. Many types of cancer are related to the use of tobacco, what people eat and drink, exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun, and, to a lesser extent, exposure to cancer-causing agents or carcinogens, such as cancer-causing viruses or those found in the environment and the workplace. Still, most people who get cancer have none of the known risk factors. And most people who do have risk factors do not get the disease.



This week's answer to our feature question was provided by our medical service provider at Chong Hua Hospital in Cebu City, Dr. Buenaventura C. Ramos Jr. Dr. Bill as he commonly addressed by his patient is specializes in IM-Oncology. He finished his medical degree at Cebu Institute of Medicine. He took his residency training for Internal Medicine at UP-PGH in 1997 and later obtained his subspecialty training for Oncology in 1999 at the same institution. He is a fellow of the Philippine College of Physicians, Philippine Society of Medical Oncology, Philippine Society of Oncologists and Pain Society of the Philippines. He is married and blessed with one child. MEDICard members may visit him at Chong Hua Hospital at Suite 505 B MAC Mondays thru Saturdays from 10am-12noon.

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

Nicky

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Special PROJECT

Philippine Business for Social Progress

PBSP at 35. Leaping Forward

35th Annual Membership Meeting and Foundation Day

Message

MY WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS to the dynamic team of development workers, member-companies and Board of Trustees of the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) on your 35th Annual Membership Meeting and Foundation Day.

What you have accomplished in the past three-and-a-half decades is a testimony to the spirit of "bayanihan" in our country. The PBSP presents itself as a venue for great minds and great souls in the business sector to come and work hand-in-hand to ease the burden of many poor Filipino households.

Over the years, PBSP led the way in redefining how the business sector engages in social development. Your Foundation's development programs and mobilization of resources from your member-companies and donor-partners help fill the gap in the government's efforts in fighting poverty through the implementation of programs on livelihood and enterprise development, environmental protection and conservation, basic services, education and capability building.

Truly, I laud the PBSP for being the government's strong and valuable ally in bringing about positive social change to our nation.

Mabuhay!

Gloria Arroyo
Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President
Republic of the Philippines

A Legacy of Leadership, A Passion for Integrity

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, FIFTY businessmen banded together to put flesh into what they believed was "a divine conspiracy" for corporate activism. In the midst of the turmoil and uncertainty of that era, they called for "enlightened self-interest" in the business sector so that they could help to build capacities for the poor and to uplift society. That its people were the country's richest resource did not escape them; thus, they committed themselves to "help people help themselves".

Thus was born the Philippine Business for Social Progress. PBSP has been variously termed as an experiment, a journey, an adventure, and a leap - into uncharted territories - in making the corporate sector a major stakeholder in national development. One morning daily in the 70s described this move as "one great step forward in the social investment of private business." Little probably did they know that this move would someday establish the standards by which social development work and corporate social responsibility are to be measured, not only in the Philippines, but, also in other countries as well.

The founding of PBSP has been called an experiment in fusing the discipline of business with the compassion of development. As in all experiments, there were failures and disappointments. Many believed it would not persevere. But thirty five years later, the experiment has proven itself more than successful and worthy of being repeated in a manner bigger and better. Why? Because of what PBSP has accomplished: P 5.8 billion raised and disbursed as grants or soft loans, 3.27 million beneficiaries reached, and more than 3,000 proponents taken as partners. Who have benefited? The urban poor, landless rural workers, agrarian reform beneficiaries, upland and lowland farmers, marginal fisherfolk, indigenous peoples - in short, the most marginalized sectors in our society.

Our innovations, or "the PBSP way" as some have called them, have inspired new and better ways of doing things, be it in appropriate technologies, working with communities, developing an area, access to services and resources, or managing an organization. Many insist that current programs of the government and other organizations, such as area development, socialized housing, institution-building, local governance and micro-finance, have their foreshadowing in our earlier programs like community and social credit, rural development, community organizing, and the Area Resource Management.

The Sambahayan Condominium we built in Mandaluyong in the 70s was the first medium-rise housing for the poor. The courses we ran to help our field partners become efficient project managers are now standard requirements for project implementers. The NGOs we developed and strengthened through our earlier Provincial Development Foundation program continue to be the leading development organizations in their provinces. Even our financial and auditing systems, which many were skeptical about as being too corporate for NGOs, are now the norm.

Manuel V. Pangilinan PBSP Chairman and PLDT Chairman

PBSP's work with the poor have been driven by the tenacious involvement of the membership in every facet of its tasks. From identifying projects to monitoring them, from raising funds to ensuring their prudent use, from sustaining each one's membership to recruiting new ones, the members continue to find excitement and enthusiasm in their assignments.

Above all, PBSP has shown that it is possi-

LEGACY/ D2

PBSP's work with the poor have been driven by the tenacious involvement of the membership in every facet of its tasks

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as of September 30, 2005

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A Legacy of Leadership, A Passion for Integrity

From page D1

ble for business competitors to come to the table and transcend individual interests to work on the urgent goal of alleviating the plight of the poor. This show of unity once prompted a USAID officer, John Grayzel, to remark: "What seems unique in my experience with PBSP is its ability to get people to pull together as a group that goes beyond their individual identities, to a common identity, a common purpose…what we call a coalition, whose members identify with each other and have a common interest." This coalition resulted in a more focused and strategic role for business in development, and their success led to the establishment of our Center for Corporate Citizenship with the support of the Rockefeller Brothers Foundation.

The past three-and-a-half decades have taught us lessons on focus, responsiveness, relevance, prudence and efficiency. These are lessons we must not miss as we fortify ourselves for the new challenges ahead of us. We will reflect them in the plans we prepare, the projects we implement, the partnerships we establish, the resources we mobilize, and even in the organization we nurture. We will likewise continue to be critical of ourselves, evaluating constantly our efforts and pruning all those that distract us from being "the leader in business sector involvement in social development," as our vision statement articulates. Furthermore, we will multiply ourselves through one of our goals: "to build a cadre of social development professionals," and thereby further our catalytic role.

These lessons and resolutions we will draw competence from, as we move into the second year of our revised 7th five-year plan. This plan is significant because it is closely aligned with the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals, a global commitment to halve poverty in the world by 2015. For our part, we are committing a budget for the next four years of P3.2 billion, which is no less than fifty-five percent of the total budget of P5.8 billion raised and expended in the past 34 years of PBSP's history. As the lead convenor for private sector participation in the MDGs, we will carry out our role as catalyst by involving even non-members to work with us in this urgent undertaking.

Passion for integrity is a distinct quality of PBSP's work. It is a precious thread that shines throughout the Foundation - a premium put on all facets of its dealings and undertakings. As one of our core values, it is carefully guarded and protected

against potential risks, thus strengthening the PBSP brand. As we move forward to expanding our global network, this unrelenting effort to be transparent and accountable becomes even more essential to our success. Subsequently, we have given the PBSP logo a new face to reflect a revitalized institution worthy of the good reputation that precedes it.

The years ahead will heighten PBSP's relevance. Just like our founders, we will have to be visionaries, find innovative ways of harnessing the resources of the corporate sector, and make that giant leap forward.

PBSP is inviting all member companies, partners and donors to attend its 35th Anniversary on January 24, Tuesday, 3:30 PM at Dusit Hotel Nikko.
For more information, contact 527-7741 to 48 or Email at pbsp.org.ph website: www.pbsp.org.ph

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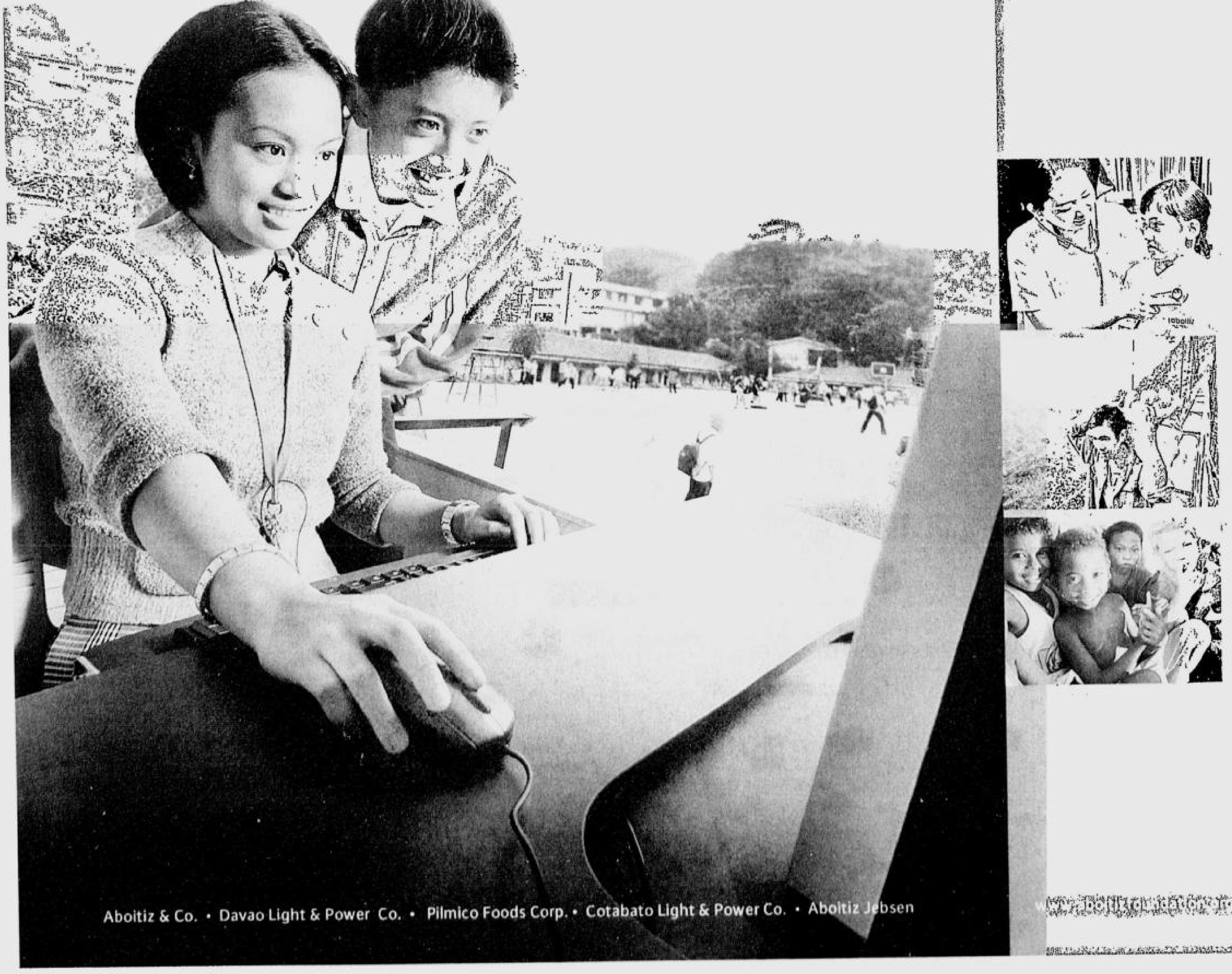

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A golden harvest of scholars

WITH ITS NEARLY RUNDOWN FAÇADE and narrow hallways, this tiny elementary school in Pateros could be mistaken for a parking building. But if Pateros is known as "the Duck Egg Capital of the Philippines," Capt. H. Francisco Elementary School may well be the goose that lays the golden eggs.

The school is home to the most number of Pateros scholars of the Tulong Aral ng Petron, a program of Petron Foundation to put poor but deserving children to grade 1 until they finish grade 6. A total of 84 students out of the school population of 1,084 qualified for Tulong Aral scholarship and are now in various grade levels.

Nilda I. Cruz, school principal, says being home to many scholars is testament that children in the depressed area can also show their full potential if given the chance and the resources. "Without the scholarship from Petron, how can you send your kids to school if you're just a tricycle driver or a vendor with so many mouths to feed?" Ms. Cruz says in the vernacular.

Located southeast of Manila, Pateros is the smallest and one of the poorest among 17 municipalities and cities in Metro Manila. The town used to have a thriving duck egg (balut) industry, but Ms. Cruz says urbanization led to many land reclamations. With overcrowding came the death of the lakes and, with it, the duck industry.

Opportunities for work have dried up as well. Parents of the Tulong Aral ng Petron scholars interviewed for this article were mostly either in-between jobs or have no permanent work.

Myrna Parpan, a mother of four, is even privileged to have a husband who has found regular employment as a security guard in Makati City. "Kung wala akong Petron scholar, hindi ko alam kung paano pagkakasyahin ang kanyang sweldo sa aming pamilya (If my daughter was not a Petron scholar, I don't know how else we could manage to make ends meet with his salary)," she says. Aside from her scholar who is in grade 4, two of her children are already in high school and the youngest is in kindergarten.

Ernesto Fernandez, a watchmaker in Pateros, echoed Myrna's sentiments. When daughter Christine qualified for scholarship in grade 1, Ernesto says, "naiyak talaga ako sa tuwa kahit ako ay lalaki (I really cried with joy though I'm a man)." His daughter started showing her potential when she won for "Best in Reading" in kindergarten. "All I had to do was give her guidance," he adds.

Like all Tulong Aral ng Petron scholars, his daughter Christine gets brand-new uniforms, shoes, books, and school supplies every beginning of the school year, on top of daily meal allowances. Meanwhile, parents like Ernesto are sent to parent effectiveness workshops, and participate in the monthly meetings of the Petron Parents Associations where they share their experiences and concerns on their children's studies.

Tulong Aral is also complementing their studies with reading programs provided by its partners. Ronald McDonalds House Charities is sharing its Bright Minds Read program to scholars from Grades 1 to 3, while Sa Aklat Sisikat Foundation is promoting the love of reading among Grade 4 students and building the teachers' capability to create a nation of readers. The Department of Education, through the schools taking part in Tulong Aral, is providing tutorials, remediation classes and other academic support programs for all scholars, especially for children at risk of dropping.

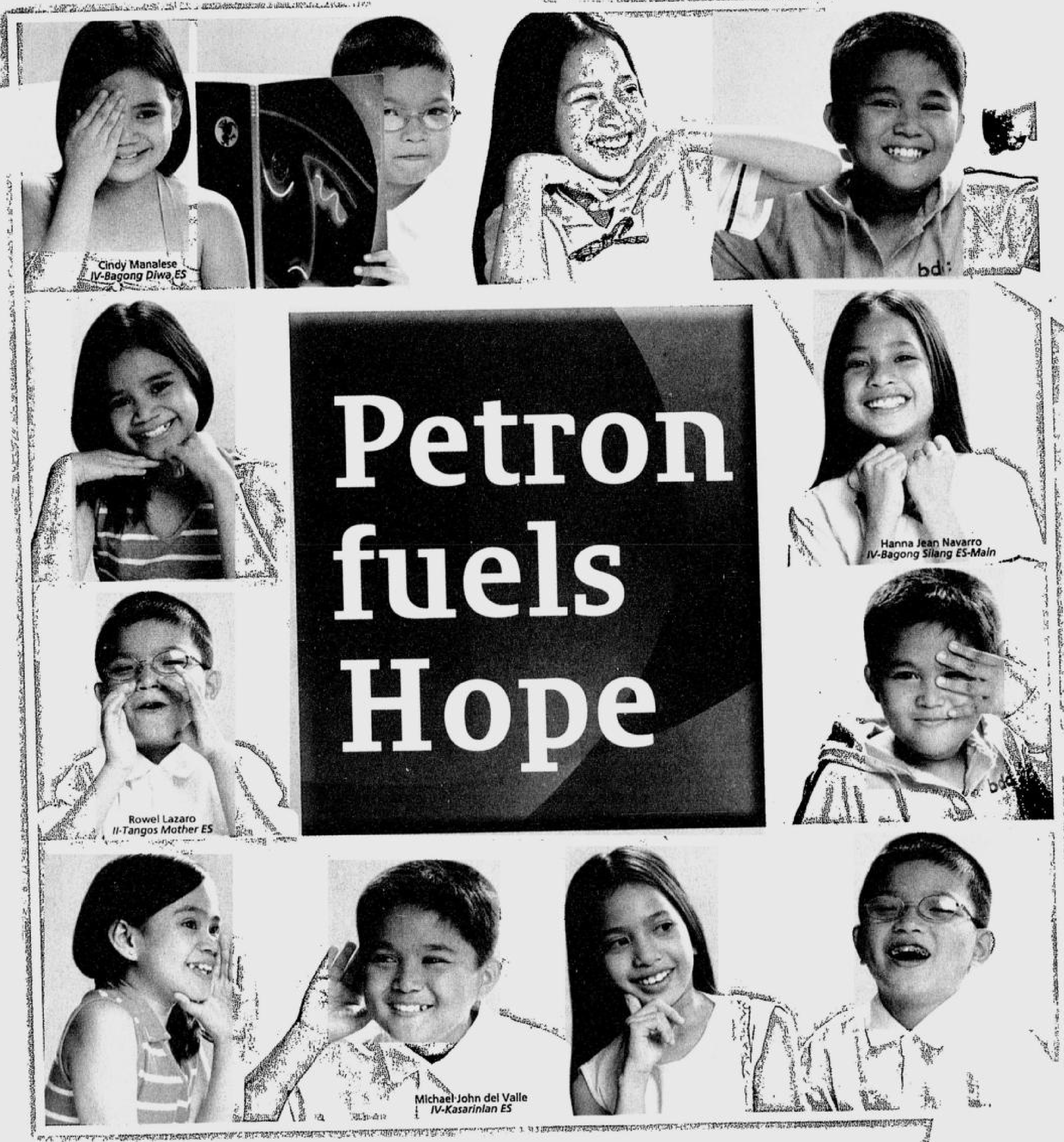
Petron Foundation launched Tulong Aral ng Petron in April 2002 with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) choosing beneficiaries from families with limited access to primary education. The flagship program serves as Petron's strategic response to fighting poverty and meeting the United Nations Millennium Development Goals of making poverty history.

The first batch of 1,000 pupils enrolled in 90 schools is now in their fourth grade. A fresh batch will succeed each batch of grade 1 Tulong Aral scholars who will proceed to the next grade level. Now on its fourth year, Tulong Aral now has more than 4,000 students.

By the sixth year, Petron will be sponsoring 1,000 students at every grade level or a total of 6,000 students. This figure presumes that there will be zero dropouts. Assuming that the 7% dropout rate projected by the Department of Education applies, Petron will still be able to graduate 5,043 children two years from now.

Four years into its implementation, Tulong Aral ng Petron is building bridges of dreams for children to see hope beyond poverty.

"I want to become a doctor when I grow up," says grade 1 pupil Jesrebecca Santos of Capt. H. Francisco Elementary School. Her mother used to laugh when she hears her daughter's career ambition. With Jesrebecca becoming one of the Tulong Aral scholars, her mother is now full of hope. Someday, there will be a doctor in the family.



One out of four children in Metro Manila is unable to avail of even free elementary education due to lack of resources. Poverty remains their biggest obstacle for learning and having a chance to enjoy a brighter tomorrow.

PETRON FOUNDATION Hope

Thanks to your continued support, Tulong Aral ng Petron enables more than 4,000 less privileged children to complete elementary schooling and give them a reason to hope for a better future. This gift of education provides full scholarship, health and literacy programs for the children, teachers' training and opportunities for livelihood for the parents.

TULONG ARAL

Together, let us fuel hope. Let us Help the Filipino children and youth Overcome Poverty through Education.

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In partnership with the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Education and World Vision

PBSP Year End Review at a Glance

For Fiscal Year October 1, 2004 to September 30, 2005

P 60.45	million membership contributions received
P146.35	million received from donor agencies and corporate benefactors
P392.79	million financial assistance approved
260	projects
100	partner organizations
88,570	households reached

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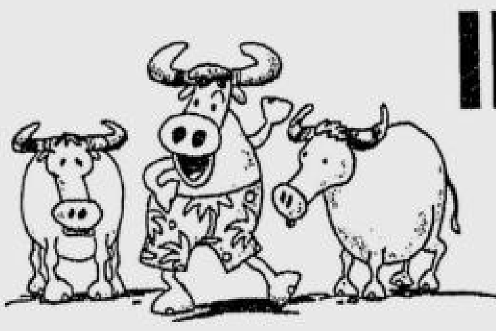

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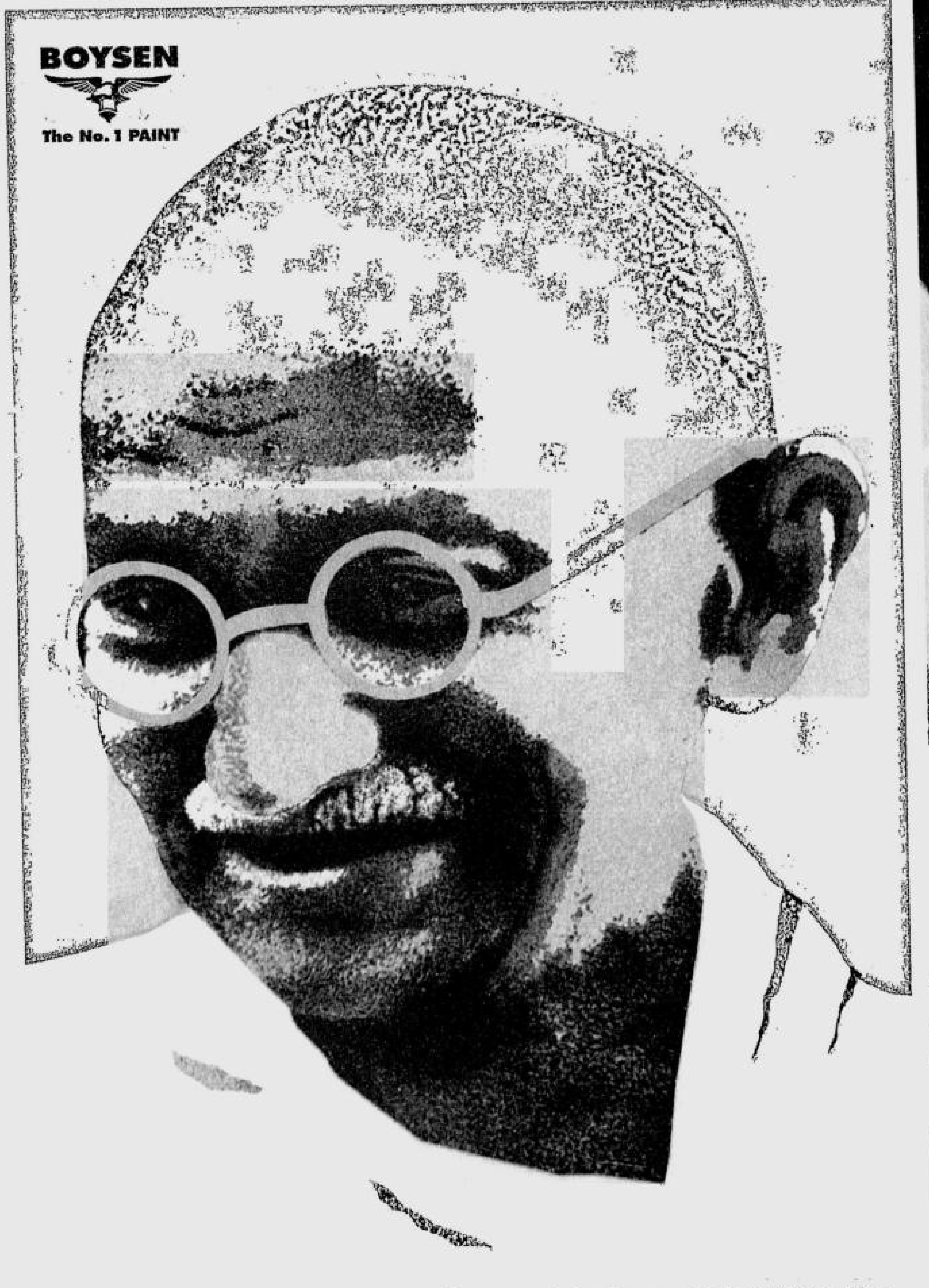
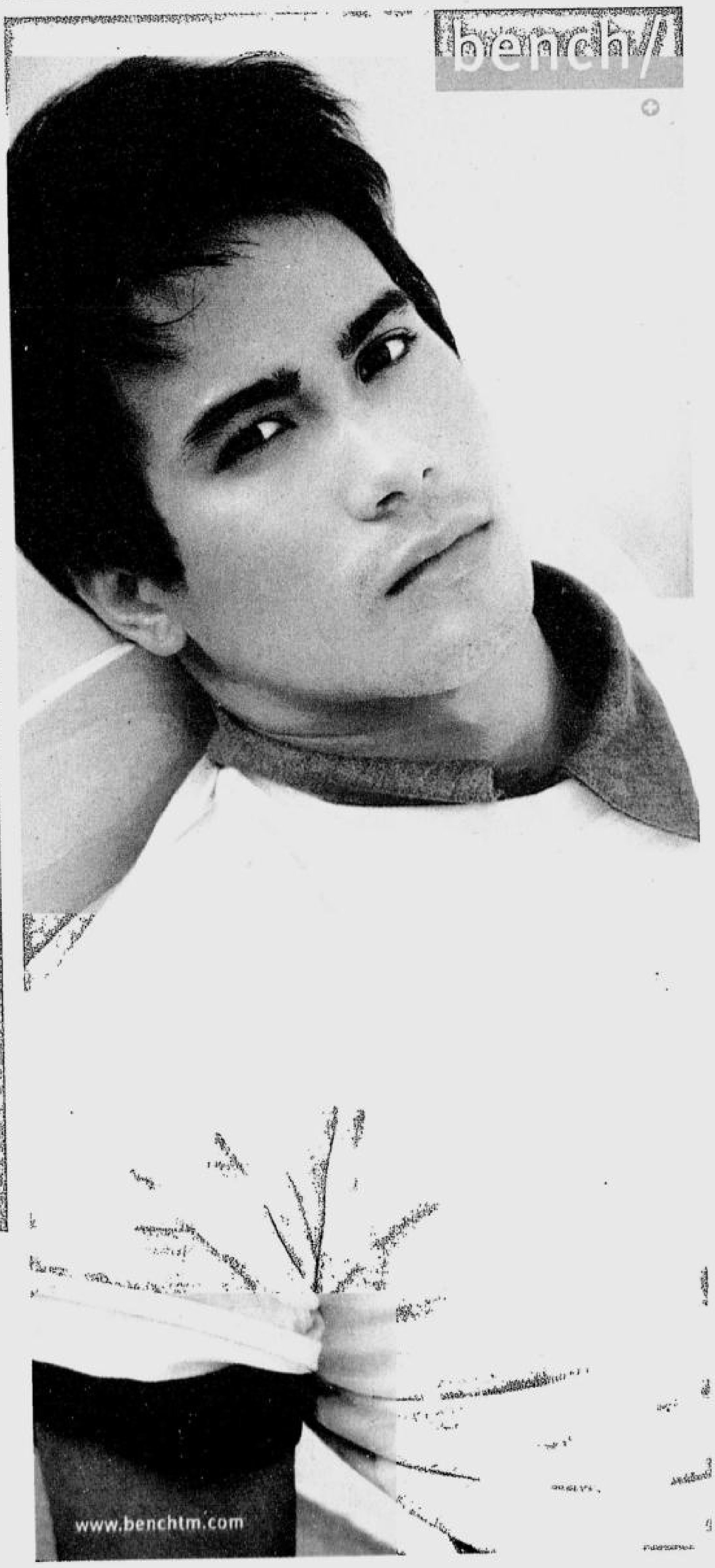


Boysen salutes those who fought for color.



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